INSPECTION REPORT

ON THE

PENAL SETTLEMENT OF PORT BLAIR

1867

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOLUME II

CONTAINING

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF BRITISH BURMAH AND THE AUTHORITIES AT PORT BLAIR.

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CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF BRITISH BURMAH

AND

THE AUTHORITIES AT PORT BLAIR.

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CORRESPONDENCE

WHICH PASSED BETWEEN

MAJOR H. NELSON DAVIES, B.S.C.,

SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF BRITISH BURMAH,

ON SPECIAL DUTY AT

PORT BLAIR,

WITH THE

AUTHORITIES AT THAT SETTLEMENT.

No. 317, dated 17th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Executive Engineer, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will furnish him with a return of—

1*st*—The approximate area of land cleared in the Port Blair Settlement; and,

2*nd*.—The approximate area of land actually under cultivation according to the following form:—

NAMES OF STATIONS.	APPROXIMATE QUANTITY OF LAND CLEARED BY			APPROXIMATE QUANTITY OF LAND ACTUALLY UNDER CULTIVATION BY			REMARKS.
	Free Men	Self-Supporters.	Convicts.	Free Men.	Self-Supporters.	Convicts.	

No. 40, dated 23rd April, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT W G. CUMMING, R. E., *Executive Engineer, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to forward the information called for in Major Davies' letter, No. 317 of the 17th instant, with reference to the approximate area of ground cleared and cultivated in the Settlement of Port Blair. The data on which the required information is given is not so accurate as could be wished, as many of the new stations have not been surveyed, and others that have, have been much enlarged since surveys were made.

Return of the approximate area of land cleared, and actually under cultivation in the Settlement of Port Blair.

Names of Stations.	Approximate quantity of land cleared by			Approximate quantity of land actually under cultivation by			Remarks.
	Free Men.	Self-Supporters.	Convicts.	Free Men.	Self-Supporters.	Convicts.	
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	
Ross Island ...	None.	None.	82	3	...	2½	Ross Island is so crowded with buildings, that little land is available for cultivation. That cultivated by free men consists of Officers and Soldiers' gardens; that by convicts the Settlement gardens, principally the Annandale gardens. Although the average of Ross Island is considerable, much of this land is quite useless, owing to its steepness, especially on the northern, southern, and eastern slopes.
Chatham Island ...	None.	None.	11¾	¾	None.	None.	Cultivation principally Officers' gardens.
Viper Island ...	None.	None.	83¾	½	¾	4	Viper Island is exceedingly hilly, and little suited for cultivation, as the soil seems to have exhausted itself already. Small quantities of cotton grow here.
Aberdeen ...	None.	30	69	None.	30	9	The self-supporters here grow the ordinary vegetables for the Ross Island market. The Government cultivation consists principally of a paddy field on a reclaimed mangrove swamp and betel nut plantation.
Haddo ...	None.	40	61	None.	79	None.	All the cultivation on Haddo is performed by self-supporters. In this station the greatest amount of vegetables, &c., are produced, and sold in different markets on the Settlement.
Mount Harriet ...	None.	10	13	None.	10	3	A fair amount of vegetables are produced here and sold to other stations. Principally flourish in the Settlement gardens.
Hope Town ...	None.	6¾	5	None.	5	None.	Principally Burmese self-supporters cultivate here.
Command Point ..	None.	None.	6½	None.	None.	None.	Cleared for sites for convict barracks; too steep and rocky to be cultivated.

Return of the approximate area of land cleared, and actually under cultivation in the Settlement of Port Blair—(Concluded)

Names of Stations.	Approximate quantity of land cleared by			Approximate quantity of land actually under cultivation by			Remarks
	Free Men.	Self-Supporters.	Convicts.	Free Men.	Self-Supporters.	Convicts	
	Acres	Acres	Acres.	Acres.	Acres	Acres	
Perseverance Point and *Cattle Farm.*	None.	1½	14	None.	None.	None	Cleared for convict barracks and cattle farm A few self supporters have commenced approximate to cultivate.
South Point ...	None.	None.	7	None.	None.	None.	Cleared for barracks; self-supporters about to commence cultivation approximate area.
Phœnix Bay, adjoining land towards Aberdeen,	None.	6	5	None	5	None	The self-supporters cultivators' grounds are on the side of the main road from Aberdeen to Phœnix Bay on hilly ground. Plantations here flourish approximate area.
Navy Bay Point ...	None	1	4½	None	1	9	Cleared for barracks. Government cultivation, principally cotton and vegetables. Self-supporters few in number and lately arrived, approximate area.
Port Mouat, Progress Creek, and intermediat land,	None	10	65	None	10	7	Very fine vegetables seem to have been produced here both by self-supporters and Government gardeners with little labor, as the soil is good, approximate area.
Totals ...	None.	105¼	467	4½	140¾	34	

No 354, dated 23rd April, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary, Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that the more I see of this Settlement, the more impressed I am with the ruinous practice of clearing away all the jungle trees, without replacing them at once with trees of a useful description.

2. I would submit for your consideration, whether it would not be advisable to limit the clearing of jungle at first to that class of trees and underwood, which encumber the ground to such an extent as to prevent saplings being planted, and vegetables cultivated here and there. Where trees are thick, I would leave clumps of course; some large trees might require felling, but ground should be selected where they are not superabundant, such as may be found on the road between Aberdeen and Navy Bay.

3. Such a plan as above sketched would have all the tall trunks standing as a sort of shade to protect new plants, and would also check the precipitous fall of rain, and prevent, in a great measure, the washing away of the soil which is of a particularly light nature.

4. For the most part, the tall trees have straight stems, free of branches, except at the top, so that the rays of light and heat from the sun would not be materially intercepted by having this class of trees standing; the immense labor of cutting up their trunks, were they felled, is saved, and a certain quantity of land becomes immediately available, and the nutriment

from the soil which originally went to nourish the underwood would be available for the new plants. The old trees would attract rain until the new ones were ready to take their place, and only a certain number of the old trees should be killed annually, regulated by the state of maturity indicated by those of recent planting.

5. From the plan now in operation, I allude even to the latest, that at Homfray's Creek, the following evils are apparent:—

1st.—The sides and tops of the hills, by being entirely denuded of trees, or nearly so, cease to attract the light showers, and when the heavy showers fall, they carry away the soil at a rapid rate.

2nd.—There is great delay in obtaining land for culturable purposes; so great is this delay, that the quantity of land brought under cultivation in the eight years we have had this Settlement is inappreciable as a means of affording a supply of cereals, or indeed any description of supplies except a scanty stock of vegetables.

6. If my ideas on this matter be at all correct, I would suggest for your consideration, in view of the almost irrepairable damage which has already been committed in clearing away too great a number of trees, whether it would not be advisable at once to send the "Kwangtung" to the neighbouring islands and procure a ship-load of cocoanuts, seeds of the Bael and Jack, most excellent trees, which I mention because they are useful, and can be grown from seeds procurable in any number from Rangoon. These might be distributed largely amongst the self-supporting cultivators and planted in Government gardens; these latter when they have struck root might be made over to old men (by the 25, 50 or 100 plants, according to the strength of the old men), and their duty would be to plant and tend them, that is, they will see that the cattle and goats did not molest them, and they should also be required to keep the plants free from weeds; possibly they would require a little watering occasionally in the hot weather, all the rest is nature's own work.

7. In this way the old jungle would disappear gradually, and a new run of useful trees would be substituted, and progress would be rapid; whereas now the planting of fresh trees seems to have come to a dead lock.

8. Notwithstanding the experiment of growing Jack, Bael, and other trees proved so successful five or six years ago, the experience gained from that fact has never been utilised.

9. A present of ten or a dozen cocoanuts to each self-supporter would be a real boon; they not only afford profit but also shelter for their huts, and having been given the seed gratuitously, they should be made to account for it.

10. There is another point which I wish to refer to, connected with the self-supporters. Leaving the system altogether apart from convict discipline, and assuming that the Government uphold it as an encouragement to well-conducted convicts for the purpose of reclaiming these islands, the system should receive every encouragement. As at present carried on, some men by pernicious habits, which reduce their strength, manage to save the prescribed sum which enables them to start as a self-supporter; others by receiving remittances from their friends are enabled to do so with ease in a comparatively short time; but both these classes (if common rumour be true) attain their object only through a gigantic system of bribery; if it be so, the industrious poor are almost excluded from the hope of obtaining the legitimate object of ambition, *i. e.*, regaining a comparative independence and living by their own labor.

11. I shall in this place only notice the class of self-supporting cultivators. Regarding these, it is only in rare instances one sees real industry and its sequence, comparative comfort. Either the men are not the best selections, or the difficulty of clearing the jungle is too great; or the nature of the soil is against them; or they do not get a sufficient supply of seeds; or, may be, their system of cultivation is interfered with; or, on the other hand, they are not shewn what is the best system; some drawback attends them. Some men, I understand, are prohibited growing too much sugar-cane; another man who had selected a bad position for making salt, on account of its vicinity to fresh water, was not allowed to change it, and may be other petty interferences or malpractices on their own part, which neither you nor I could ever ascertain, prevent the cultivating class thriving as well as they might. One thing I think is certain, that all classes of self-supporters should be made to work; the condition on which they obtain the boon is, that their service should be beneficial to the country, and this should be rigidly exacted.

12. I have sometimes observed a practice which I think should be peremptorily forbidden, not for any vice in itself, as for the consequences it is likely to lead to, and that is, invariably when an official is passing, a self-supporting gardener presents him with the best fruits of his garden. Now, one does not know where their generosity might end, and I think the acceptance of presents, of whatever nature, from subordinates in this Settlement, should be made punishable.

13. The above suggestions resolve themselves into the following points, which I submit for your consideration:—

1st.—Reasonably good ground to be selected, free from a very heavy proportion of large trees.

2nd.—Only such large trees as are absolutely necessary, to be removed, but all small jungle and underwood to be cleared.

3rd.—This class of ground to be available for self-supporters; if none are available, then some convicts be set to plant it, rather than let it be idle.

4th.—The immediate supply of cocoanuts to self-supporters, also seeds of Bael and Jack, and any other useful and healthy seeds or saplings that can be procured.

5th.—When a self-supporting cultivator is established, his progress should be closely watched; any severe difficulties he meets with should be enquired into, and, if necessary, assistance given him,—say two or three convicts allowed to assist him, in getting some heavy work accomplished.

6th.—If "guinea grass" can be spared they should be supplied, on the understanding that, should the cultivators not want the grass, the Commissariat would purchase it, at a good profit to the cultivator so long as it is required for cattle.

14. I will conclude by observing that what is wanted most in this Settlement is, first, preserving the soil, and then extracting something useful out of it. There appears to be a very limited supply of young trees ready for planting, and unless immediate steps be taken, another entire year will be lost, as, when the soil becomes cool through the action of the rain, it is difficult to get anything to grow. I may add that I have been informed that the seed of the Bael and Jack must be obtained from fruit ripened on the tree, and the seeds of the latter which are nearest the stem fructify much earlier (by several years) than those towards the end of the fruit which are nearly worthless.

No. 32, dated 26th April, 1867.

From—Lieut. Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 354, dated 23rd instant, informing me by direction of the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, that the more you see of the Settlement, the more you are impressed with the ruinous practice of clearing away jungle trees without replacing them at once with trees of a useful description.

2. You submit for my consideration, whether it would not be advisable to limit the clearing of jungle at first to that class of trees and underwood which encumber the ground to such an extent as to prevent saplings being planted, and vegetables cultivated here and there; you suggest, where the trees are thick, that clumps should be left; that the ground should be selected where they are not superabundant, such as may be found in the road between Aberdeen and Navy Bay. On this point I beg to remark that, since I have been in charge of this Settlement, it has been my invariable practice to clear the land in the way you suggest, leaving, where practicable, clumps and belts of trees. My attention was drawn to this by the late Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, and other authorities who have visited this Settlement. No land has been bared by me, except one or two small patches, where *entire* clearance was necessary for cotton cultivation; that my attention has been duly given to the subject will be found on a reference to para. 95 of my Administration Report for the year 1864-65 (my office copy of which is with you). From what I there expressed, it will be perceived that I quite fall into your views as expressed in paras. 3 and 4 of your letter under reply.

3. Referring to para. 5 of your letter, it will be observed from para. 4 of my communication* to your address, that the clearance that you allude to is an exceptional case and not my rule. With reference to the delay that you refer to in clause 2 of para. 5 of your letter in obtaining land for cultivation purposes, I beg to inform you that I have brought upwards of some 400 acres of land under cultivation, which I think is pretty well, considering that Sir Robert Napier, K. C. B., in his notes on Port Blair, dated March 1864, remarked "that but little could be done in the way of clearance until the present urgent demand for shelter had been satisfied."

* No. 25, dated 24th April 1867.

4. You suggest in para. 6 of your letter, that it would be advisable to send the "Kwangtung" to the neighbouring Islands to procure a ship-load of cocoanuts. The only place whence they could be procured in this group of islands is from the Cocos; but these islands have been already granted by Government to a Company, and having requested Captain Duncan, commanding the "Kwangtung," to proceed to the "Car Nicobars" for the same purpose, that Officer stated that the vessel is not in a condition to proceed such a distance, and has submitted a letter from the Chief Engineer, stating that the vessel ought to be docked for repairing boilers, machinery, &c. I purpose, therefore, to apply for cocoanuts from Rangoon in the way you have suggested to me. I will endeavour to obtain a supply of "Bael" and "Jack" seeds. Your suggestions as regards the cultivation of young trees, raised from such seeds, shall have my attention.

5. The "dead lock" (referred to in para. 7 of your communication) that you observe seems to have taken place in the planting of fresh trees, has not occurred. I am giving my attention at such time I can spare to the raising and distributing of young plants. I have just now several young mangoe, pumplenose and tamarind trees all ready to distribute as soon as the rains fall, and I have at my own expense introduced several young trees, with more or less success, obtained from Calcutta, Madras, and British Burmah.

6. With regard to para. 8 of your letter, I have the honor to state that I have endeavoured to raise young "Jack" and Bael trees from local seed, but have not been successful. The only person on the Settlement who understood this, was, Cultivation Overseer prisoner Jones, who died three years ago; since then I have had no prisoners sent here of any use to me as a gardener, though I have applied for such assistance.

7. With reference to your para. 9, I have given away large numbers of cocoanuts procured since I have been here; unfortunately, it has turned out that, wherever there are

goats, young trees get eaten down and destroyed, even though watched and fenced. My opinion, therefore, is, that cocoanuts can only be introduced on occupied portions of Port Blair: an inspection of the Haddo and other gardens will shew many young trees, which I have introduced, growing well. I have planted 500 cocoanuts in Port Mouat during last year, and have one thousand more for planting there next month. Mr. Homfray has assisted me in planting a great many in other unfrequented places, and I have another one thousand ready for planting out as soon as the rains fairly set in.

8. On a perusal of your remarks in para. 10 of your letter under reply, I have to remark that, though no doubt bribery prevails amongst the subordinate convict grades, I believe it to be used more to evade labor and curry-favor with those of their own class set over them, than to obtain the indulgence of being permitted to become self-supporters. It has been my practice since I have been in charge of this Settlement, that a convict desirous of becoming a self-supporter should be possessed of the requisite means, skill, or ability to fill such a post, and has recommendations as to character or otherwise. Writing upon this subject, Sir Robert Napier, K. C. B., remarks:—"It may perhaps appear that the number of self-supporters, shop-keepers, and tradesmen is large to be deducted from actual labor, yet it must be remembered that the majority of them are totally unfitted, from constitution and previous habits, to endure hard labor, and if put so, it would simply fill the hospitals and lists of mortality, whilst they now form a very useful foundation for the increase of the Settlement. Many of them have their shops supplied by their friends in India, and no freeman could be found to fill their places." The spirit of the above remarks of Sir Robert Napier has been my guide in the selection of convicts as self-supporters.

9. The industrious poor, who have come forward willing to take up new land under Settlement rules, have, I desire most distinctly to state, had every encouragement, so far as I considered it advisable to grant new allotments, and I found them industriously occupied thereon. As I have observed in another communication, you see the Settlement at the worst time of the year, and I submit that it is not fair to pronounce upon any man's cultivation at a time when the fair weather crops are consumed, and the new and the wet weather crops are not yet sown or appeared. Just now the great heat and the want of water prevents anything being done. As soon as the rainy season fairly commences, cultivation operations suitable thereto will be resumed I am not aware of any interference with the system of cultivation; if the best methods of cultivation are not shown it cannot be helped. I have done my best personally to instruct the gardeners far and wide, and though I do not profess to know anything of gardening, I have labored much amongst them to improve their cultivation so far as I was able. I have often applied for qualified assistance in this respect, but have received none. The supply of seeds, I consider, has been sufficient for demand. If I may be furnished with the names of the men who you understand were prohibited from growing too much sugar-cane, I have no doubt that I shall find that orders for the same were issued by competent authority. The man you mention who is in a bad position for making salt had twice before, in other localities, evaded work, and was as you find him by my orders. The self-supporting cultivators are being encouraged in every way by myself and assistants, and all overseers being enjoined to do the same. I do not think that they are subjected to petty interferences though many instances of malpractices on their own part come to notice. I can point out to you cultivators who, being really industrious, are not thriving well. It is my principle to make all self-supporters work, and upon the very views that you hold. What I need is assistant officers to more closely overlook them.

10. No instances of the practice of receiving presents of fruit, that you refer to in para. 12 of your letter, have ever come to my knowledge. In my own case when such is offered, should I desire it, I pay for it, and probably more than the convict would get anywhere else for his produce.

11. The suggestions contained in the concluding para. 13 of your letter are summarised. I consider them very valuable, and tending to much practical benefit to the Settlement. I shall be very glad to give them my best consideration and to act upon them.

No. 438, dated 30th April, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Executive Engineer, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction, to request you will be good enough to proceed to Progress Creek on the morning of the 2nd proximo. There you will meet Mr. Homfray, who will be instructed to point out—

1*st.*—All the land entirely cleared and now fit for being cultivated.

2*nd.*—All the land partially cleared, that is, land on which the trees have been felled, but which is not now ready to be cultivated; and—

3*rd.*—The land now actually under cultivation.

2. All the plots in the scattered Settlement of Port Mouat are to be inspected and reported on, including Mount Augusta.

3. It is very essential that a tolerably accurate estimate, as above called for, should be obtained; for while the continuance of Port Mouat as a Settlement is under the consideration of the Committee, the labor expended on the above account will necessarily have considerable weight.

No 50, dated 3rd May, 1867.

From—Lieut. W. G. Cumming, R. E., *Executive Engineer, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 438 of the 30th April 1867, requesting me to proceed to Port Mouat on the 2nd of this month to meet Mr. Homfray, concerning the estimated area of certain clearances and ground under cultivation within the limits of that Settlement.

2. According to the instructions contained in your letter under consideration, I went to Port Mouat yesterday at some inconvenience to myself, particularly as I should have been in the Office the greater part of the day, in order to despatch any letters that were to have gone by the Steamer "Kwangtung" which, had not an accident happened, would have left for Burmah by 3 P. M. yesterday.

3. Although I had received an extract from the Chief Commissioner's letter, requesting me to render you all assistance in my power, I do not think that it was for a moment intended that I should receive such peremptory direct orders as you have issued in your letter under consideration, especially as the work which was required to be done was simply to measure up the cleared ground at Port Mouat, which could have been done quite as well by Mr. Pope, Assistant Engineer, or other qualified persons serving in the Public Works Department in the Division.

4. In conclusion, I beg to state that I am at all times willing and anxious to render every assistance that may be required of me; but as this must be subservient to regular departmental work, which, as in the present instance, was of a far more pressing character, I beg respectfully to protest against peremptory orders being issued to me, stating the day and hour that certain work must be done.

5. The area of the land cleared and cultivated at Port Mouat, will be forwarded as soon as calculations are worked out.

No. 55, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—Lieut. W. G. Cumming, R. E., *Executive Engineer, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to forward the information asked for in your letter No. 438 of the 30th April last. With regard to the total land cleared, I have estimated for all the ground on which the trees have been pulled down, but not all removed.

Jungle cleared at the different stations in Port Mouat, 130½ acres.

2. The total area of land fit for cultivation I obtain by deducting the steep slopes of the hills from the total clearances, as I presume cultivation can be well carried on everywhere at Port Mouat, except on the steeper slopes.

Jungle cleared and fit for cultivation, 79 acres.

3. The land actually under cultivation comprises Mount Augusta and Garden Hill; the former only is under a high state of culture, the latter has been simply sown with different kind of vegetable seeds, with little expenditure of labor.

Land actually under cultivation, 50¼ acres.

No. 439, dated 30th April, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to forward you copy of my No. 438 to Lieut. Cumming, Executive Engineer, in which I have requested Lieut. Cumming to proceed to Port Mouat and estimate the quantity of land cleared, partially cleared, and cultivated.

2 Be so good as to direct Mr. Homfray to meet Lieut. Cumming at Homfray Ghât, Progress Creek, on the morning of the 2nd proximo at such time as may be fixed on.

No. 547, dated 9th May, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Executive Engineer, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will be good enough to give approximately the area of Ross, Chatham, and Viper Islands.

No. 68, dated 9th May, 1867.

Memo. from—Lieut. W. G. Cumming, *Executive Engineer, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to forward the information required in the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah's Memo. No. 547 of this day's date—

Ross	Island	...	82	area in acres.
Chatham	„	...	11¾	„
Viper	„	...	83¾	„

Register of Buildings in the Port Blair Division up to the 31st March 1867.

Permanent or Temporary.	Names of buildings.	For what purpose.	Remarks.
	Ross Island.		
Permanent	Superintendent's Bungalow ...	Superintendent's residence	
"	8 Angle Iron Barracks ...	Convicts.	
"	1 Barrack for E. N. C. Officers ...	Military.	
"	1 Ditto European Troops ...	Ditto.	
"	1 Sappers' Hospital ...	Ditto.	
"	1 General Ditto ...	Civil.	
"	1 European Infantry ditto ...	Military.	
"	1 Native Ditto ditto ...	Ditto.	
"	Executive Engineer's Bungalow ...	Civil.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Asst. Superintendent's Bungalow ...	Ditto.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Commissariat Officer's Bungalow ...	Military.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Assistant Engineer's Bungalow ...	Civil.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Officer Commanding Sappers & Miners	Military.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Apothecary's Bungalow ...	Civil.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Commissariat Sergeant's Bungalow...	Ditto.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	D. P. W. Overseer's Bungalow ...	Ditto.	
"	Ditto Cook-house .	Ditto.	
"	Settlement Overseer's Bungalow ...	Ditto.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Officer Commanding E. Troops ...	Military.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Senior Medical Officer ..	Ditto.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Settlement Accountant ...	Civil.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Harbour Master ...	Ditto.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	European Infantry Subalterns ..	Military.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Harbour Master's Office ...	Civil.	
"	Bungalow occupied by three Clerks ...	Ditto.	
"	Ditto Cook-room ...	Ditto.	
"	Commissariat Sergeant's Bungalow...	Ditto.	
"	Chaplain's Bungalow ...	Ditto.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	D. P. W. Accountant's Bungalow ...	Ditto.	
"	Ditto 4 Cook-rooms ...	Convicts.	
"	Barracks occupied by E. Troops ...	Military.	
"	2 Ditto Native Infantry ...	Ditto.	
"	2 Corrugated Iron Godowns ...	Civil Commissariat.	
"	3 Shingled Ditto ...	Ditto Ditto.	
"	Commissariat Office and Stores ...	Ditto Ditto.	
"	Medical Store ...	Civil.	
"	Bakery ...	Ditto.	
"	Kotwallee and Lock-up ...	Ditto.	
"	Convict Hospital ...	Ditto.	
"	Rum Godown ...	Commissariat.	
"	Magazine (old) ...	Military.	
"	5 Latrines ...	Ditto.	
"	1 Ditto ...	Civil.	
"	1 Ditto ...	Convicts (Christian).	
"	Mess-house ...	Military.	
"	Bowling Alley ...	Ditto.	

Register of Buildings in the Port Blair Division up to the 31st March 1867—(Continued).

PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY.	NAMES OF BUILDINGS.	FOR WHAT PURPOSE.	REMARKS.
	ROSS ISLAND—*(Continued).*		
Permanent	2 Cook-rooms ...	Military.	
"	Bungalow for Free Constable ...	Civil.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Circuit-house ..	Ditto.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Deputy Superintendent's Bungalow...	Ditto.	
"	Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Barrack for Marine Service ...	Ditto.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Ditto Latrine ...	Ditto.	
"	2 Corrugated Iron Cook-houses ...	Convicts.	
"	Punishment Cells ...	Military.	
"	Magazine (new) ...	Ditto.	
	ABERDEEN.		
	1 Bungalow for Settlement Overseer	Civil.	
	4 Angle iron Barracks ...	Convicts.	
	1 Receiving Hospital ...	Ditto.	
	1 Barrack for Free Police ...	Civil.	
	1 Corrugated Iron Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
	1 Do. Do. ...	Convicts.	
	HADDO.		
	4 Angle wire Barracks ..	Convicts.	
	Settlement Overseer's Bungalow ...	Civil.	
	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
	1 Receiving Hospital ...	Convicts.	
	4 Corrugated Iron Cook-houses ...	Ditto.	
	School-house for Children ...	Ditto.	
	1 Barrack for Free Police ...	Civil.	
	Hospital for 200 patients ...	Convicts.	
	1 Latrine ...	Ditto.	
	CHATHAM.		
Permanent	1 Corrugated Shed ...	Convicts.	
"	2 Barracks for Native Infantry ...	Military ...	Occupied by Police.
"	Civil Surgeon's Bungalow ...	Civil.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Bungalow occupied by Superintendent, Police ...	Ditto.	
"	2 Angle Iron Barracks ...	Convicts.	
"	Do. Apothecary's ...	Civil.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto	
"	D. P. W. Overseer's Bungalow ...	Ditto.	
"	Corrugated Iron Cook-house ...	Convicts.	
"	D. P. W. Storekeeper's quarters ...	Civil.	
"	1 Cook-house (masonry) ...	Convicts.	
"	2 Latrines ...	Civil.	
	VIPER ISLAND.		
Permanent	Bungalow occupied by Assistant Engineer ...	Military.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Bungalow occupied by Inspector of Police ...	Civil.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	

Register of Buildings in the Port Blair Division up to the 31st March 1867—(Continued).

PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY.	NAMES OF BUILDINGS.	FOR WHAT PURPOSE	REMARKS.
	VIPER ISLAND—(*Continued*).		
Permanent.	Bungalow of D. P. W. Overseer ...	Civil.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Bungalow occupied by Apothecary...	Ditto.	
"	Ditto Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
"	Bungalow occupied by Officer Commanding Native Infantry ..	Ditto.	
"	Ditto Cook house ...	Ditto.	
"	5 Angle Iron Barracks ...	Convicts.	
"	2 Cook-rooms (masonry) ...	Ditto.	
"	3 Do. (corrugated) ...	Ditto.	
"	1 Corrugated Iron Shed ...	Ditto ...	Hospital.
"	1 Dead House ...	Ditto ...	Hospital.
"	1 Barrack for Police ...	Civil.	
"	1 Latrine ...	Ditto.	
"	1 Do. ...	Convicts.	
"	1 Barrack Native Infantry ...	Military ...	Retransferred from Police to Military.
	PORT MOUAT.		
Permanent.	1 Angle Iron Barrack ...	Convicts.	
"	Hulk "Ein-go-Biagh" ...	Ditto.	
	NAVY BAY POINT.		
Permanent.	4 Angle Iron Barracks ...	Convicts.	
"	2 Corrugated Iron Cook-houses ..	Ditto.	
	COMMAND POINT.		
Permanent.	2 Barracks (Angle Iron) ...	Convicts.	
"	2 Corrugated Iron Cook-houses ...	Ditto.	
	PERSEVERANCE POINT.		
Permanent.	1 Angle Iron Barrack ...	Convicts.	
"	2 Corrugated Cook-houses ...	Ditto.	
	MOUNT HARRIET.		
Permanent.	4 Angle Iron Barracks ...	Convicts.	
"	2 Corrugated Cook-houses ...	Ditto	
"	1 Barrack ...	Police, Civil.	
	D. P. W. Overseer's Bungalow ...	Civil.	
	Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
	WORKS IN PROGRESS, ROSS ISLAND.		
	Stone Barracks ...	Military.	
	Guard Room ...	Ditto.	
	Church ...	Civil	
	Hospital for 52 patients ...	Convicts.	
	Verandah to Godown ...	Commissariat.	
	Apothecary's quarters and out-houses ...	Military.	
	CHATHAM ISLAND.		
	Apothecary's quarters and out-houses ...	Civil.	

Register of Buildings in the Port Blair Division up to the 31st March 1867—(Continued).

PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY.	NAMES OF BUILDINGS.	FOR WHAT PURPOSE.	REMARKS.
	VIPER ISLAND.		
Permanent	5 Jail Barracks ...	Convicts.	
	WORKS PROJECTED FOR 1867-68.		
	ROSS ISLAND.		
Permanent	Fives' Court ...	Military.	
"	School-room and Master's quarters ..	Civil.	
"	Quarters for European Clerks ...	Ditto.	
"	Ditto Native Clerks ...	Ditto.	
"	Ditto Accountant attached to Superintendent's Office ...	Ditto.	
"	2 Iron Grain Godowns ...	Commissariat.	
"	Overseer's quarters and Cook-house	Civil.	
"	2 Angle Barracks for Artificers, Commissariat followers, &c. ...	Commissariat.	
"	1 Angle Iron Barrack for Married quarters ...	Civil.	
	ABERDEEN.		
Permanent	1 Jungle-wood shed for 300 Sheep...	Civil.	
	VIPER ISLAND.		
	1 Barrack for Native Infantry ...	Military.	
	Free General Hospital ...	Civil.	
	Dresser's quarters and Cook-house...	Ditto.	
	1 Corrugated Iron Barrack ...	Convicts.	
	PERSEVERANCE POINT.		
Permanent	1 Jungle-wood shed for 300 Sheep...	Civil.	
"	1 Small Receiving Hospital with Dresser's quarters and Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
	HADDO.		
Permanent	Apothecary's quarters with Cook-house ...	Civil.	
"	Dresser's quarters and Cook-house...	Ditto.	
"	3 Angle Iron Barracks with Cook-houses ...	Convicts.	
	NAVY BAY POINT.		
Permanent	Overseer's quarters and Cook-house	Civil.	
"	Small Receiving Hospital with Dresser's quarters and Cook-house ...	Ditto.	
	COMMAND POINT.		
	1 Angle Iron Barrack ...	Convicts.	
	1 Iron Coal shed ...	Commissariat.	
	HOPE TOWN.		
Permanent	1 Small Hospital with Dresser's quarters and Cook-house ...	Civil.	

Register of Buildings in the Port Blair Division up to the 31st March 1867—(Concluded).

PERMANENT OR TEMPORARY.	NAMES OF BUILDINGS.	FOR WHAT PURPOSE.	REMARKS.
	MOUNT HARRIET.		
Permanent.	1 Small Receiving Hospital with Dresser's quarters and Cook-house.	Civil.	
	SOUTH POINT.		
Permanent.	Receiving Hospital with Dresser's quarters and Cook-house ...	Civil.	
"	4 Angle Iron Barracks with Cook-house ...	Convicts.	

W. G. CUMMING, R. E., LIEUT.,
Ex. Engineer, Port Blair Division.

No. 459, dated 2nd May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to ask what is the area of land which will become available when the sea-bund and the cross-bund, now being made in the bight between South Point and Aberdeen, are completed?

2. I also request you will be good enough to state the date on which each bund was commenced; also, when each may be expected to be finished; likewise whether it is the swamp these two bunds will enclose that is supposed to cause unhealthiness to the inhabitants of Aberdeen; and lastly, whether this swamp is that referred to in para. 3 of your letter No. 214, dated 6th March 1866, to the address of the Chief Commissioner, wherein is a quotation from Dr. Morton's letter No. 506, dated 31st August 1866?

3. I am further directed to enquire whether there are any other swamps prejudicial to the health of prisoners, &c., on Aberdeen, besides the above and that known as the Phœnix Bay "Mangrove Swamp," which it is understood is now bunded in, and only require sluice-gates to complete the work?

No. 113, dated 6th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 459 of the 2nd instant, in which, by direction of the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, you enquire what is the area of land which will become available between the sea-bund and the cross-bund in the bight between South Point and Aberdeen when completed?

2. In reply I beg to state that the area of land under reclamation is about 150 acres. I beg here to note that the cross-bund is complete; it is the sea-bund which is incomplete.

3. I am also desired to request information on what date each bund was commenced; also when each may be expected to be finished?

4. In reply I beg to state that the cross-bund was commenced in January 1865, and was finished in December of the same year: that the sea-bund was commenced on 21st March 1867, and may be expected to be completed, *vide* my letter No. 29, dated 25th ultimo from which I extract:—

"The work was commenced on the 21st of March last, and on an average 45 "laboring convicts and two talidars have been employed on it up to date. As the work "progresses, it will be much heavier than the commencement of it, in consequence of the "distance earth will have to be carried, cutting down and removing trees and their roots, "and the way the high tides will also interfere in the progress of this work. Under "these circumstances, I cannot say positively when the wall will be finished. Taking "the datum of the completion of 416 yards in a month, the remainder might be ex-"pected to be completed (giving the same number of convicts for work) in about six months "and a half, but seeing how much heavier the work would be at the further end, I "should say that the work would be completed in about nine months."

5. Since I addressed the above letter to you, Dr. Cowie, the late Senior Medical Officer, has forbidden any bund work (*see* copy of his letter attached); the works have been therefore stopped, and it is now impossible to say when the sea-bund will be completed.

You likewise enquire whether it is the swamps that these two bunds will enclose that is supposed to cause unhealthiness to the inhabitants of Aberdeen.

6. In reply to this enquiry I have to state that it is both this swamp and that which runs round the back of Aberdeen, that are supposed to cause unhealthiness to the inhabitants of that station; the malarious character of the former, however, has now been greatly reduced by paddy planting over a portion of it, and the progress of clearance over the remainder.

7. You lastly enquire whether this swamp is that referred to in para. 3 of my letter No. 314 of the 6th March 1866 (by which I presume is meant 1867) to the address of the Chief Commissioner, wherein is a quotation from Dr. Morton's letter No. 506 of the 31st August 1866, regarding which I beg to state that it is both the above swamps to which Dr. Morton referred. Dr. Morton alludes to the partial clearance of the former and the bunding of both swamps.

8. In concluding your letter, you ask if there are any other swamps prejudicial to the health, &c. of Aberdeen besides the two; in reply to which I beg to say that there are no other swamps prejudicial to health at Aberdeen that I am aware of.

No. 820, dated 25th April, 1867.

From—Dr. A. J. Cowie, *Staff Surgeon, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

A very large number of sick are daily arriving here from Aberdeen, and I believe a similar demand for admission into the Hospital at Chatham is taking place from the Divisions at Navy and Phœnix Bays. I have, therefore, the honor to request that all prisoners may cease to be employed on the bunding works at those stations. It would be as well for a few months to withdraw them from the vicinity of those swamps.

No. 314, dated 16th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request you will furnish him with a map of the Settlement of Port Blair, including Port Mouat, marking thereon any localities in the vicinity of Port Blair which you consider may be made available for Settlement purposes.

The undersigned will also be obliged by the loan of a copy of the Code of Rules which are in force on the Island for perusal, which will be returned hereafter.

No. 11, dated 17th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Lieut. Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge receipt of Memo. No. 314 of yesterday's date, and with reference thereto begs to forward, enclosed, the only map of the Settlement which is in his office. A sketch map of Port Blair was forwarded with the Administration Report of this Settlement for 1864 65, with a request that the same might be lithographed and forwarded to this office, but nothing whatever has since been heard of the result of this request. If by "localities available for Settlement purposes" is meant localities suitable for clearance and building purposes, in respect of the provision of accommodation for convicts, the undersigned begs to state that, in the opinion of the late Senior Medical Officer, Executive Engineer, and Superintendent, all suitable localities in the vicinity of Port Blair have already been taken up. *Vide* extract from letter as per margin attached.

No. 51, dated 21st July 1866.

The Code of Rules under preparation (not yet completed) are at present in the hands of the Superintendent in rough sheets, but the undersigned will be happy to afford any information upon such points connected therewith as may be desired.

Extract from letter No. 51, dated Port Blair, 21st July 1866, from Lieut. Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair, to the address of the Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

"And the fact that in the recent selections of localities for new stations at Port Blair which were only decided upon after careful examination by the Senior Medical Officer, the Executive Engineer, and myself, and discussion in all respects occurring to us as to the suitability, height, aspect, water, prevailing winds, ventilation, forest, swamp, mangrove, expense of clearance, &c., &c., that all remaining unoccupied localities that were considered likely to prove *healthy* had now been taken up, it became a matter of necessity to seek for other suitable localities for convict stations either more towards the southward or push into the interior, both of which operations it was considered could not be so advantageously undertaken as they could otherwise be, were we once fairly established at Port Mouat."

No. 321, dated 18th April, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to acknowledge your No. 11 of 17th instant, and to state that the information I require is—

1*st.*—Whether or not in the vicinity of Port Blair, there are any localities where, as yet, no settlements have been made which are suitable for settlement purposes, such as clearing, building on, and cultivating? and

2*nd.*—Whether or not, at the several Settlements already commenced in the vicinity of Port Blair, such as "South Point," "Aberdeen," and "Haddo," there is ground available for an extension of such Settlements beyond what is possible for the laborers now stationed thereon to occupy, that is, to clear, build on, and cultivate?

No. 14, dated 20th April, 1867.

From—Lieut. Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary, Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 321 of the 18th instant in continuation of your No. 314 of the 16th idem, requesting to be informed for the information of the Chief Commissioner—

1*st.*—"Whether or not, in the vicinity of Port Blair, there are any localities where, as yet, no settlements have been made which are suitable for settlement purpose, such as clearing, building on, and cultivation?"

2*nd.*—"Whether or not, at the several Settlements already commenced in the vicinity of Port Blair, such as "South Point," "Aberdeen," and "Haddo," there is ground available for an extension of such Settlements beyond what is possible for the laborers now stationed thereon to occupy, that is, to clear, build on, and cultivate?"

2. In reply to these queries, I have the honor to state that, in forwarding to you my Memo. No. 11 of the 17th instant, I penned that document, supposing that your previous enquiry was for sites for barracks of permanent or semi-permanent construction. As regards land that may be cleared, built on, and cultivated, no doubt there is much around Port Blair upon which such operations might be undertaken, but whether with *safety* to human life and health, is a matter of great doubt. I have already stated that the late Senior Medical Officer, the late Executive Engineer, and myself, considered that, having due regard to all sanitary considerations, all suitable localities had been occupied, and that no other healthy situations presented themselves. It may perhaps be advisable that I should briefly refer to all unoccupied localities around Port Blair, stating the objections that occurred to us regarding them.

Commencing at "North Point."

The landing there, and thence up the coast, north, is impracticable during the monsoons on account of rocks and heavy surf. Hereafter, the high land on "North Point" might be reached by the circuitous route of a road from "Mount Harriet." The conveyance of building material by such a route, however, would require an enormous outlay of labor. At "Mount Harriet" it was not considered advisable to extend barrack accommodation until the healthiness of the station, as at present occupied by a division of convicts, had been further and well tested.

All suitable sites along "Perseverance Point" are fully occupied.

"Hope Town" is decidedly unhealthy.

On "Command Point" there is no more room for building sites. From thence tending westward to "Dundas Point," the whole shore is low and densely and deeply covered with mangrove. The malarious vapors passing over this mangrove would also affect any barracks built on the ridge running from "Dundas Point" to the furthermost point south-west (where the harbour contracts) of Viper Island.

Turning now to the southern shores of this Port, there is "Mount Haughton," lying south-east by south of "Aberdeen." I myself led on an exploring party to "Mount Haughton" some year and a half ago, in search of building sites, but the ascent was found too abrupt, and its summit too narrow to get building sites upon without the expenditure of an immense amount of labor in cutting them out.

The same remark applies to the narrow ridge running from "Mount Haughton" to "South Point."

"South Point," you will observe, is about being occupied. Sites are being prepared here for barracks for one division of convicts (420 men). Seeing that a large swamp lies to the north of "South Point" it was not considered advisable, until that swamp was cleared, which is now being done for paddy cultivation, and the place had been tested, which it has been to a certan extent, to recommend any further occupation of "South Point" for the present.

"Aberdeen" as you are aware has always been unhealthy, and will be so until the swamps above referred to, and the large one at the head of "Phœnix Bay," which lies directly south-west *behind* the ridge of "Aberdeen," be cleared and sweetened,—an operation that will not be, as regards the latter and larger swamp, accomplished for the next two or three years.

This remark equally applies to the ridge which runs from "Aberdeen" to "Phœnix Bay." "Phœnix Bay" itself is quite unoccupiable from the fever engendered by the malarious vapours thrown off from the mangrove that grows densely around that Bay, and which has an equally insalubrious effect upon the ridge to the west of "Phœnix Bay" running towards Haddo.

From "Haddo" to "Navy Point" an inspection of the ground that runs along the line of the road that connects these stations will shew that the contour of the country is too abrupt and too shut in to offer healthy or suitable building sites.

From "Navy Point" all around "Navy Bay" to the southern head-land thereof, south of Viper Island, is one dense mangrove swamp, which for the present entirely forbids any occupation of the rising ground existing above the outline of the Bay.

The ridges between the creeks that surround the shallow flats of the head of this harbour are also from their low and feverish situation from the surrounding growth of man rove, unsuitable for building sites.

3. As regards clearing and cultivating, I may say that operations in both respects are constantly being pushed forward around the several stations of Port Blair, and thus in due time the valleys will be reached that lie both to the rear of most of these stations and over which cultivation will, no doubt, in due time be extended. In connection with the extension of such clearings, there are here and there small spots and nooks of land in which, while there is no room for large buildings, such as barracks, hamlets might be established to be occupied by such self-supporting cultivators as might hereafter be engaged upon the tillage of such cultivatable lands.

No. 10, dated 12th April, 1867.

From—Major H N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I am directed by the Chief Commissioner to enclose copies of two telegrams, received through Messrs. Bulloch Brothers, of Rangoon, from their agents at Akyab.

The information conveyed is to the effect that, on the 21st ultimo at noon, the Commander of the "Assam Valley," a vessel bound from Rangoon to Akyab, landed at noon on the south-east point of little Andaman Island, with seven of the crew for the purpose of cutting a spar; that the party hauled up their boat and proceeded into the jungle. About one hour afterwards a crowd of native Andamanese were seen on the beach dancing, but no Europeans were afterwards seen. The vessel hovered about till the evening of the 23rd, and then bore away for Akyab.

The possibility is, that the whole party of Europeans has been murdered by the natives, or if any have escaped with their lives, that they must be very badly off for provisions.

The Chief Commissioner directs that, on receipt of this, you will at once despatch the "Kwantung" to the spot indicated in the telegram Mr. Homfray, the Superintendent of the Andaman Home, with such natives as he may think useful to him, are to accompany the Commander; an armed force of strength, as you may deem sufficient should also be sent The first object will be, to endeavor to recover the missing men, or trace what has become of them. Every precaution should be taken by the exploring party to guard against a surprise by the natives. No vengeance should be taken on the aborigines unless proof of the murder of some of the Europeans be clearly established. You will issue such subsidiary orders as you may deem proper. I am only to add the Chief Commissioner expects a circumstantial report of the progress and the result of the expedition for the information of the Supreme Government.

Dated 9th April, 1867.

Telegram from—Colonel Fytche, *Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, Rangoon,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, Moulmein,*

Mr. Homfray to go in "Kwantung" to search for the missing men, and take Andamanese with him. No violence to be used towards the natives without good cause.

Dated 5th April, 1867.

Telegram from—Messrs. Bulloch Brothers, *Akyab,*

To—Messrs. Bulloch Brothers, *Rangoon.*

"Assam Valley" arrived under charge of Chief Officer on 21st at noon. Captain and seven of the crew went ashore on the south end of little Andaman Island to cut a spar, were seen to land and haul up the boat; an hour afterwards a crowd of natives were seen on the beach dancing. No Europeans were seen afterwards. The ship hovered about till Saturday evening, 23rd, and came on here. Report to authorities.

Dated 6th April, 1867.

Telegram from—Messrs. Bulloch Brothers, *Akyab,*

To—Messrs. Bulloch Brothers, *Rangoon.*

The bearings of the spot where the Captain and crew of "Assam Valley" landed are on the south end of little Andaman Island, south-east point bearing east half north south-west

point, bearing west by north, a sandy beach, quite bold with a large rock close to the water edge. Mate has a Master's certificate.

No. 481, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state it seems very advisable that another effort should be made to communicate with the people on little Andamans. Should you see no objection, I have to request you will have the goodness to direct the Commander of the Steamer "Arracan" to proceed on a cruize to the little Andamans with a view of prosecuting a further search for the missing crew of the "Assam Valley." As perhaps the swell along that coast has by this time abated, the Commander of the "Arracan" may be able to obtain some clue to the fate of the missing crew. Mr. Homfray should accompany Captain Barrow with some friendly Andamanese.

The "Arracan" should not go later than Tuesday, and be back at this port on Thursday evening, unless there is good cause for her detention there.

No. 385, dated 26th April, 1867.

Office Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to state he is strongly under the impression that the convict barracks on Ross Island are much overcrowded. He wishes your opinion on this point, and also that you will have the goodness to state what remedial measures are in progress.

No. 44, dated 27th April, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT. COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 385 of the 26th instant, in which his opinion is stated that the convict barracks on Ross Island are now overcrowded, and requests the undersigned will state his opinion thereon, as also what remedial measures are in progress.

With reference to which, the undersigned begs to state that, just now, they are overcrowded, but this is only for a day or two, until convicts who have been a few months here can be transferred to out-stations to make way for recent arrivals. Since the Executive Engineer's demands for labor have been so heavy, the undersigned, in view of the orders of Government with regard to the supply of such labor, has felt it his duty to retain an extra number of convicts on Ross Island, for which proceeding the late Senior Medical Officer of Port Blair gave it as his opinion that, as a temporary measure, above 30 per cent. more than the officially fixed number of occupants of a barrack might with safety be also lodged therein. This has recently been done without any ill effects; at the same time, the undersigned desires to record his opinion that such arrangements are objectionable, as it interferes with the existing regulations of the barracks, and he would be glad, therefore, when he could revert to his original plan of allotments of barrack space. As regards present remedial measures, it may be mentioned, that the Senior Medical Officer has been applied to, to select 300 prisoners for transfer to out-stations, and that a new temporary barrack, capable of accommodating 160 convicts, is in course of re-construction in place of one of similar dimensions that it was necessary to take down, last week, in consequence of its becoming dangerous.

No. 372, dated 25th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Assistant Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request the following information :—

1st.—What is the cubical vacant space in the iron-roofed barracks used as an Hospital on Viper Island?

2nd.—What number ought the hospital to contain, including servants, &c.?

3rd.—What number of sick men were on the list the day he visited it with you?

4th.—What number of attendants, servants, and hospital officials, occupy this hospital?

Regarding the third and fourth queries he should wish the number of sick, servants, &c. who occupied the lower floor, divided from those who occupied the upper story.

No. 14, dated 27th April, 1867.

From—CAPTAIN THE HON'BLE J. H. FRASER, *Assistant Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In reply to your memorandum No. 372 of the 25th instant, I have the honor to enclose a paper off your answers to your questions put to me in the above quoted memo-

randum. I regret I could not give this information sooner. I had to wait for it from Viper Island.

Questions.

1*st.*—What is the cubical vacant space in the iron-roofed Barrack used as an Hospital on Viper Island?

2*nd.*—What number ought this Hospital to contain including servants, &c.?

3*rd.*—What number of sick men were on the list the day Major Davies visited the Hospital with Assistant Superintendent?

4*th.*—What number of attendants, servants, and hospital officials occupied this Hospital on that occasion?

Answers.

Cubical contents of space in Viper Island Corrugated Iron Hospital is 6,000 cubic feet, or 440 cubic feet per convict.

Number of convicts the Hospital is calculated to hold is on lower floor 82, on upper floor 32, total 114.

		Male	*Female.*
Hospital of Corrugated Iron.	On lower floor ..	84	0
	„ upper „ ...	14	0
Hospital for invalids in two wards	...	31	0
Total Males	...	129	0
In female Barracks	...	0	4
Total on sick list on 20th instant...		129	4

Twenty-six Hospital servants, including orderlies for bed-ridden patients relieved alternately, when off duty used a part of the upper floor for sleeping on, on the 20th instant. The number now occupying the upper floor is eighteen. No servants or Hospital officials occupy any part of the lower floor.

No. 408, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Assistant Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge receipt of letter No. 14, dated 27th instant, and now requests you will inform him of the superficial area in feet of the lower and upper floor of the Hospital referred to, and also the superficial space allotted to each patient, &c.

No. 15, dated 30th April, 1867.

From—Captain the Hon'ble J. H. Fraser, *Assistant Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge your Memorandum No. 408 of the 29th instant, and in reply to inform you that the superficial area in feet of the Hospital referred to is as follows:—

Upper gallery for 32 men at 40 s. ft. per man	...	...	1,280 s. ft.
Lower floor for 82 men at 40 s. ft. per man ...	...	...	3,280 s. ft.
Total for 114 patients at 40 s. ft. per man ...	...	...	4,560 s. ft.

The superficial space allotted to each patient is 40 feet per man.

No. 471, dated 4th May, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction, to notice that between the European and Prisoners' Barracks, there is a well, the mouth of which is flush with the ground; he suggests the propriety of having a guard of some sort put round the mouth.

No. 399, dated 27th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, in continuation of an extract of a letter to the Sanitary Committee, forwarded to you last night demi-officially, to hand you copy of a letter from the President of that Committee.

2. Should you see no objection, I would then suggest that two of the three angle iron Barracks be placed on board the "Erin-go-bragh," and that she be towed round here by the "Kwantung" without delay.

No. 6, dated 27th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor, with reference to Chief Commissioner's memorandum marked No 399, dated 27th instant, to acknowledge copy of a letter to Sanitary

Committee; in reply the undersigned has the honor to state that orders have been issued for the material for two angle iron Barracks being placed on board the hulk "Erin-go-bragh," at Port Mouat, and for that vessel being towed round to this Port on Tuesday next.

No. 367, dated 25th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to inquired in what principle amounts pay for lamps lights, and what is the amount deducted on out of lights; what the lights for which they pay are, and where the oil is procured from.—[Sic in Copy.—B. D]

No 4, dated 25th April, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In acknowledging receipt of Chief Commissioner's Office Memorandum marked No. 367 of this day's date, the undersigned has the honor to forward, enclosed, the annexed copy of Settlement Order, dated 3rd September 1866, which, it is believed, will afford all the information required on the subject of Barrack light and payment for the oil for the same.

Dated 3rd September, 1866.

Settlement Order by LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

From the 1st of the current month, deductions will be made as under for oil consumed in the Barracks.

Oil will be issued on indent made out by Overseers.

Each compartment for a section (25 men) will have one lantern for which ¼ lb. oil will be allowed.

Thatched Barracks occupied by about 100 prisoners, are to have 2 lanterns and oil in above proportion allowed.

Deductions to pay for the above will be made in the following proportion :—

Division Gangsmen		One anna per month.
Sub-division Section Gangsmen,	1st class ...	Nine Pie.
	2nd class men...	Six Pie.
	3rd class men ..	Three Pie.

Oil is obtained from the Commissariat on indent.

No. 492, dated 6th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to bring to your notice that there appears to be a good number of boats lying idle here; please submit a Return as follows :—

To what Department or Office attached.	No. of oars.	No. of crew allowed.	Monthly cost of crew to Government.	Cost price of boat.	Cost of repairs annually.

2. It has been proposed to allow the Company of Sappers here a boat, both to exercise the men, and to enable them to catch fish, so as to relieve the demand for mutton somewhat.

3. Can a boat be spared for this purpose? no convict crew would be required.

No. 112, dated 7th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 492 of the 6th instant, enquiring about a number of boats apparently lying idle at Ross Island, and in reply beg to forward, in original, letter No. 13 of this day's date, from the Harbour Master, Port Blair, to my address, affording information on the subject of these boats supposed to be lying idle.

Return A.

2. The return called for in your letter under acknowledgment is under preparation, and will be forwarded as soon as completed.

3. It will be perceived from Mr. Darwood's letter above referred to, that no boat can be spared for the Sappers.

No 378, dated 25th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to enquire as follows :—

1st.—Is there any written order against taking bribes, and what is the specified penalty? if so, please send a copy of the rules in force.

2nd.—Is there any written rule prohibiting a gangsman allowing men under his orders, and told off for special duty, to absent themselves from that special duty and go and assist self-supporters? if so, please send a copy.

3rd.—Is there any written rule requiring the Senior Medical Officer to inspect all the prisoners on Sunday mornings? if so, please ascertain from Mr. Apothecary Norman how many times the parade was attended by the late Senior Medical Officer during the 12 months previous to his death ; and also please explain how it was that some 700 prisoners were absent from last Sunday's parade.

No. 379, dated 26th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to state that from various quarters he is led to believe that bribery is rampant among the convicts, and he will be obliged by your stating your opinion on the matter, and what steps should be taken to prevent it.

No. 57, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 378, of the 25th instant, and in reply to state as follows.

1. As the Penal Code so well provides against the taking of bribes or other gratifications in Sections 116, (see Illustration A) 161, 162, 163, &c., no local Rules have been framed against such an offence. Since the undersigned has been in charge of this Settlement, he has frequently caused it to be proclaimed at convict parades that, either in offering or receiving bribes, it is a punishable offence. Instances of bribery punished by the Superintendent are also publicly proclaimed in the parades.

2. On reference to the proposed Code of Regulations, it will be found that gangsmen are now made responsible in seeing that every prisoner under their charge at work should do his proper portion of such work, and no private work for any individual ; also a gangsman leaving his work is liable to be severely punished.

3. Medical parades were first introduced by the undersigned in March 1864; and as there was then but one Medical Officer in the Settlement, it was not deemed advisable, in view of the extensive range of his duties, to order any fixed attendance of that Officer at such parades. A copy of the Settlement Order on the subject is herewith attached. The Senior Medical Officer's Circular No. 219, dated 11th March 1864, directs all subordinates to attend such parades at their respective stations. The written parade reports are forwarded through the Senior Medical Officer to this Office every Monday morning. It does not appear from enquiry that the late Senior Medical Officer, Dr. Morton, attended the medical parades after his return from sick leave in April 1866 till the time of his death.

4. With reference to your enquiry as to how some 700 prisoners were absent from parade last Sunday week, the undersigned begs to enclose a parade statement, from which it will be observed that, of the supposed 700 absentees, 441 convicts were at out-posts, where they were medically inspected, and 352 were on duty, *i. e.* servants, parawallahs, self-supporters excused, &c., on Ross Island.

Dated 9th March, 1864.

Settlement Order by LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

A parade of all convicts and self-supporters for their medical inspection, under arrangements that will be made by the Civil Surgeon, will be held at each Division Station on the 1st and 20th of each month.* Sick and their attendants are not required to be present. The Overseers in charge of each Division will attend the parade which, until further orders, will be ready for inspection at 6 A. M.

* Shortly after altered to *weekly* Sunday parades.

Dated 22nd April, 1864.

Settlement Order by LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

Every Sunday morning at daylight each Overseer will order a bathing parade of all convicts of the Division under his orders, which he will himself attend. Each man will take with him a suit of such clean clothes as he can produce. The men will then be marched to their Barracks to lodge their clothes they have taken off, and proceed immediately from thence to the medical parade on such Sundays as it is ordered.

Statement.

Present on parade	2,164
Sick in Hospital	90
Out-posts	441
On duty at Ross Island	352
Total ...	3,047

No. 171, dated 14th May, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 389 of the 26th ultimo, on the subject of bribery amongst the convicts, and requesting a statement of opinion of the undersigned on the matter as to what steps shall be taken to prevent it.

With reference to this, the undersigned has the honor to invite reperusal of his remarks as contained in his communications to your address Nos. 32* and 57* of the 26th and 29th ultimo, and No. 85* of the 3rd instant, from which documents such opinion as the undersigned has been able to form will be found clearly expressed, as well as such remedy for the prevention of bribery as may be applicable to the convict population, in its present and proposed condition, as regards receipt by the ordinary laboring convicts of a monthly subsistence payment, principally in paper and a small balance in cash.

* Paras 7-1.

No. 383, dated — April, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to call your attention to my letter No. 102, dated 1st April 1867, forwarding copy of Government letter No. 2378, dated 22nd December 1866, on the subject of the Port Blair Supplemental Budget, and your reply thereto, No. 224, not dated.

2. In my letter No. 102 you were requested to note the particular points enumerated as requiring explanation, and that you would furnish full information for transmission to Government.

3. Your letter No. 224 did not, however, embrace either in detail or minutiæ what was required; my letter of 1st April current expressed the Chief Commissioner's views on the subject.

4. I am now directed to request you will be good enough to give information on the following points:—

In para. 3 of letter No. 2378, the Government is desirous of ascertaining how it arises that, among an average of 6,554 convicts, the sum of Rupees 3,78,000 (which divided among them gives an average of Rupees 57-7-0 per convict) could be expended. The items making up the sum are stated as subsistence of convicts, Rupees 3,40,000, and for medicines and Hospital diets, Rupees 38,000. Your reply to the enquiry of Government simply states that Rupees 3,40,000 for subsistence of prisoners was based on the sanctioned scale of so much per prisoner according to his class; here your information ceases.

I now request you to be good enough to state what was the actual number of prisoners of each class who received three annas, two annas six pie, and two annas per diem, respectively, for the year under review.

5. You state that the estimate of Rupees 38,000 for medicines and Hospital diets was made on the datum of the actual expenditure for the past two years; this datum may have been correct or erroneous, but as you have afforded no tangible information, I am directed to request you will furnish me with a list of the number of prisoners who were in receipt of Hospital diet and medical comforts, stating the total expenditure of the latter in kind for the year 1865-66, and detail every item on which expenditure was incurred.

6. In para. 3 of your letter No. 224, you state that the sum of Rupees 1,16,920 was provided for the purchase of stores and contingencies for all Marine Service, &c., and that this sum had nothing to do with subsistence of convicts. You will be so good as to state what amount was actually expended under these heads for 1865-66, specifying in detail each item and its cost.

7. In letter No. 2378 from Government, a report is asked for describing the check that exists at Port Blair over expenditure. In your letter No. 224 you make no allusion whatever to the system of checking. I am now desired to ask you to state fully what checks exist under the following heads:—

1st.—What are your own powers, and what checks exist over yourself? In you appear to be combined the duties of Sanctioning Officer, Receiving Officer, Disbursing Officer, Countersigning Officer, and partially Auditing Officer. These are very incongruous duties which entail much responsibility, and are as unsatisfactory to yourself as they are to Government.

2nd.—Large amounts appear to be written off the Commissariat books on your authority; would not the assembling of Committees more frequently (say once a month) relieve you of a good deal of the responsibility? Cannot you suggest some better division of labor and responsibility? As this place increases you will be crushed with over-work.

8. With regard to para. 7 of Mr. Secretary Lushington's letter on the point of convict clothing, I have already addressed to you No. 318, dated 17th instant. It will be necessary for you to state the exact number of convicts borne on the rolls during 1866-67. It is presumed deceased convicts' clothing was received, and that some convicts who arrived towards the close of the year did not receive any clothing. Some are Europeans who get no clothing; again, there are the self-supporters; then those who are a long time sick in Hospital and do not get the full number of suits; if all these allowances be made, it is probable not more than 5,000 convicts altogether received clothing during 1866-67.

3rd.—What checks exist over disbursements in the Marine Department?

No. 339, dated 22nd April, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to invite your attention to the serious loss Government sustain by the death of cattle and sheep in the Settlement under your control.

2. In the month of April 1866, out of 1,114 sheep, 170 died.

3. I have not got the returns for all subsequent months, but I request you will favor me with a return, similar to the annexed, showing the number of cattle and sheep in hand, the number killed, and those that died during the past twelve months.

4. This morning I visited the Government cattle and sheep farm at Aberdeen, and the cattle farm at Perseverance Point.

5. I regret to have to record that the state in which I found both the cattle and sheep at the former station was most deplorable.

6. The sheep were dirty to a degree, lean, ill-favored looking; their house is leaky and wet; they have no machan, and the ground around the shed is not kept clean. As for the cattle I can scarcely describe the condition; they are all skin and bone. There does not appear to be a healthy beast amongst them; their hides are drawn; their eyes have that dull appearance which bespeaks disease; some were running at the nose; one has its horns broken off close to the head, and no proper treatment appears to have been applied to the wound; and another had a sloughing sore of a most disgusting nature (the sufferer ought to be shot at once).

7. The house in which they are kept had no ridge on it; it leaks all over. The ground, in this attempt at a covering, was all wet and filthily dirty; the gram, which had been given the animals for the evening meal was so rancid, that, half starved as they are, they rejected it. I took up a handful, as did Dr. Kelly. The animals could not eat it, nor was it fit for them to eat.

8. I understand the animals are kept tied up till 9 o'clock of a morning, instead of being taken out to graze in the early morning when the dew is lying on the grass. The Overseer who is supposed to look after them, resides across the water at Ross Island, and he states that for the last six months he has been almost in nominal charge, and has been quite three out of the six occupied in other Commissariat duties.

9. The cattle sheds on Perseverance Point were cleaner than at Aberdeen; but the sheds leak, have no ridging, and must be thoroughly wet when it rains. The monsoon rains are approaching, and the annual mortality may be expected. The cattle were out grazing. I did not see them; one that remained behind appeared as bad as those at Aberdeen.

10. Considering the great expense Government are put to in supplying meat rations to the convicts, and notwithstanding all this expense, the sufferings the convicts undergo for the want of sufficient supply of meat, the cattle which was last viewed by Dr. Kelly, Captain Fraser, and myself, I can only say was most lamentable.

11. I have requested the Sanitary Committee to enquire fully into the whole matter, as a radical change is absolutely necessary. Their report will be forwarded to you, and in the meantime I hope you will personally see into this matter.

Report of Cattle and Sheep on hand, killed, and died, in the 12 months ending 31st March 1867.

Months.	In hand.		Killed for slaughter during the month.		Died during the month.		Remarks.
	Cattle.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Sheep.	
1st April 1866 ...							
1st May 1866 ...							

No. 342, dated 22nd April, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—President of Sanitary Committee, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to forward you copy of my No. 339 of this day's date, to Colonel Ford, on the subject of the disgraceful condition the Government cattle are in on this Settlement, and the total absence of any attention paid to a subject which is of the first importance here, where meat rations are so much wanted, and which can only be kept up at an immense cost.

I request your Committee will lose no time in visiting the cattle and the sheds at Aberdeen, and report what you consider necessary to put the matter on a proper footing.

No. 343, dated 23rd April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Senior Medical Officer and President, Sanitary Committee.

The undersigned has the honor, with reference to his No. 342, regarding the state of the Government slaughter cattle, to invite an inspection of two Government bullocks attached to the 7th Division, on those Islands. These two beasts are in most excellent condition; in fact, one is almost too fat; they are under the charge of a prisoner named Purmo Sing, who states he has had charge of them for some four years. These bullocks get 3 seers of channa daily, andgrass is supplied to both of them by a convict grass-cutter of the name of Buja Sing. The condition of these animals is highly creditable to these two convicts. The undersigned sees no reason why Government slaughter cattle, which do no work, should not be in as good condition as those which do here.

No. 370, dated 25th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, with reference to his No. 339, to state he is awaiting some explanation as to the cause of the Government cattle being in such a wretched condition. He also wishes to know in whose charge the cattle are at Perseverance Point. Captain Fraser stated they were in charge of a native convict (a Toledar on six Rupees a month). How many head of cattle and sheep are there at Aberdeen and Port Mouat? How many men take care of them? What quantity of gram do they get? Please furnish all information connected with their management.

No. 26, dated 25th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge Memo. No. 370 of this day's date, and with reference thereto to state that Lieutenant Laughton, Sub-Assistant Commissary General, has been called upon to afford explanation on the subject.

2. The undersigned begs to point out that Lieutenant Laughton, being in attendance on Major H. N. Davies yesterday morning, could not accompany the Superintendent as had been arranged to inspect the cattle stations, and was occupied the whole of yesterday on a Committee.

3. The undersigned also was unable to give his attention earlier, having been engaged until a late hour yesterday, on the preparation of various information already called for by Major Davies.

4. Every practical expedition shall be given in forwarding the explanation applied for.

No. 63, dated 29th April, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 339, dated 22nd instant, drawing my attention to the serious loss that Government sustains from the death of cattle and sheep on this Settlement. I forwarded a copy of your letter to the Sub-Assistant Commissary General, who is the Officer responsible for the care of the cattle and sheep, and have called upon him to make a full report to me upon all the points that you have noted in your letter under acknowledgment, which I have received, and now forward a copy of No. 147, dated 25th April 1867, herewith attached.

2. With reference to the mortality in April 1866 on which you remark, I refer you to para. 19 of Lieutenant Laughton's report. The explanation that he has given will be found in his letter No. 227 of the 17th August 1866, to my address, copy of which was forwarded to you on the 20th August 1866, with my letter No. 77 of that date.

2. Since May 1866, Lieutenant Laughton remarks that the mortality has been comparatively small.

4. The return of casualties for the past twelve months which you called for, I have been furnished with by Lieutenant Laughton, and herewith enclose. You will observe that the mortality, as compared with that which previously took place, is small.

5. I beg to draw your attention to Lieutenant Laughton's remarks on your paras. 4, 5, 6, and 7, which I think afford fair explanation on the matters that you took exception to. You saw the sheds after the first and the most unexpectedly early shower of the season, before the new cattle shed roofs were finished, the leaves for which arrived in ship "Zurich" towed here by Her Majesty's Steamer "Arracan" in which you arrived.

6. If you will be so good as refer to my letter to your address No. 223 of 19th December last, with the correspondence noted in the margin, you will see that the subject of constructing proper cattle and sheep sheds has had the most careful consideration of myself and other Officers of the Settlement. The proposition for the construction of sheds that this correspondence led to, did not meet with the Chief Commissioner's approval; he considered that the bamboo "machans" would answer, but I submitted that the bamboo of this country is far too poor a material for such construction.

Letter No. 383, dated 5th September 1865, from the Sub-Assistant Commissary General, to the Superintendent, Port Blair.

Letter No. 761, dated 6th September 1865, from the Superintendent, Port Blair, to the Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

No. 762, dated 6th September 1865, from ditto to Senior Medical Officer.

No 415, dated 7th September 1865, from the Senior Medical Officer to the Superintendent, Port Blair.

No. 406, dated 8th September 1865, from Sub-Assistant Commissary General, to the Superintendent, Port Blair.

No. 778, dated 12th September 1865, from the Superintendent, Port Blair, to the Sub-Assistant Commissary General.

No. 443, dated 25th September 1865, from Sub-Assistant Commissary General, to the Superintendent, Port Blair.

No. 414, dated 13th September 1865, from Sub-Assistant Commissary General, to the Executive Engineer.

No. 212, dated 23rd September 1865, from Executive Engineer, to the Sub-Assistant Commissary General.

No. 528, dated 27th October 1865, from the Sub-Assistant Commissary General, to the Superintendent, Port Blair

No. 1043, dated 31st October 1865, from the Superintendent, Port Blair, to the Sub-Assistant Commissary General.

7. The sick bullocks that you noticed I have directed to be destroyed.

8. You will observe that Lieutenant Laughton affords very clear explanation with regard to the rancid gram that you noticed.

9. Lieutenant Laughton also affords explanation in para. 13 of his letter, with regard to the time which the animals are taken out to graze in the morning, as with reference to the responsibilities of his Sergeant.

10. Consequent on the request in the concluding paragraphs (10 and 11) of your letter under reply, I have myself made a personal inspection of the cattle and sheep, and I feel that I am bound to say that, taking them all together, considering the season of the year, and the wretched condition in which I have frequently seen such live stock arrive in this Settlement, in my humble opinion I do not consider the cattle and the sheep to be in that lamentable condition that you describe. On behalf of Lieutenant Laughton I feel it but just to state for the Chief Commissioner's information, that he is most diligent in his supervision of his live stock, and in his efforts to improve their condition with such means as he has at his disposal.

11. The convicts that I allow to the Commissariat as cattle attendants are given at the rate of about 12 per cent. of cattle and sheep. This allowance I consider sufficient, but Lieutenant Laughton has applied that it may be doubled. In view of the urgent demand for labor in the Public Works Department, I have not felt myself at liberty to add so many convicts to the Cattle Establishment without obtaining the Chief Commissioner's orders. I would beg, however, to state that I would recommend Lieutenant Laughton's application be complied with to the extent of half as many attendants more than he now has. In anticipation of the Chief Commissioner's approval, I beg to report that I have made this extended amount of convict labor available in the Commissariat Cattle Department.

12. Two jungle wood sheep sheds, calculated to accommodate 300 sheep each, have been sanctioned in the Budget for 1867-68.

No. 47, dated 25th April, 1867.

From—LIEUT A. F. LAUGHTON, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 8, dated 22nd April, enclosing for my perusal and report a letter to your address from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, on the subject of the condition of the slaughter cattle and sheep at the Aberdeen and North Shore farms.

2. Before answering Major Davies' letter in detail, I beg to remark that, from a perusal of it, the only inference that could be drawn by a disinterested person would be that there existed a total absence of care and attention in the matter on the part of myself and those under me. I will therefore begin by appealing to you to place this subject in a proper light, as with your knowledge of the facts of the case, and of the difficulties I have had to contend with, you will be able to arrive at a more accurate estimate of how matters really stand, than those possibly can who come on the ground for the first time without knowing how they stood in former times.

3. Formerly, the sheep and cattle were kept in a long shed on the strip of land between the sea and the mangrove swamp; the condition of this was such that in wet weather it was impossible to approach it without sinking in slush to the ankle. This shed was blown down last year. I then abandoned the spot and opened out the place where the cattle now are; the available labor being so small, I have found it continual up-hill work to keep matters going with the supply given me. Aberdeen is so unhealthy that my coolies are continually becoming sick. I generally had from 8 to 16 men in Hospital; the result is that I cannot spare men to push on the necessary buildings; but not only have I had to build sheds, have the cattle and sheep attended to, fed and cleaned, but also to clear jungle and to plant out guinea grass; and all this with but 50 men, of whom, as already stated, some 20 per cent. are always sick, and the remainder old, sickly, or listless.

4. If work under such circumstances can be carried out without producing disheartening results, it is surprising.

5. For some time back I have had to discontinue the planting of guinea grass to an extent, from want of labor, and latterly I have had to apply every available man to the work of well-sinking and water-collecting, owing to the scarcity of water; this I had to do to the neglect of the work in hand of erecting sheds, which I had hoped to have had completed before the south-west monsoon sets in.

6. In the midst, however, of the work, the rains set in most unexpectedly, and as was to be expected, converted the surrounding land, as also the floor of the sheds, which are not finished, into the condition of a swamp. This was the state of affairs when Major Davies inspected the place; had he not arrived for another month, he would most probably have found all the sheds completed, roofed, ridged, and walled in, and the whole place wearing an aspect of neatness and cleanliness which cannot be expected when in an unfinished state.

7. The number of cattle and sheep now required to be kept up is considerably in excess of what it used to be. The labor required for them in conveyance of grain and fodder and in construction of sheds for them and for the protection of the fodder, is of course proportionately increased.

8. Major Davies states that the sheep were "dirty to a degree, lean, and ill-favored looking;" perhaps he saw the sick animals. The mutton which doubtless he has observed himself on his own table, is very sweet, and has a fair amount of fat on it—from which I would infer that the sheep must be healthy, and in tolerably good condition. Those, however, just arrived from Calcutta, of which more than half of my present stock consists, cannot but be thin.

9. As to the cattle I have but to ask any person who has had experience in the rationing of European troops in India, whether my cattle or those slaughtered for rations are in the better condition, and I am certain they will say that the two do not bear a comparison; for mine, though showing their ribs considerably, have a very good amount of flesh on them, and I can speak from experience, having constantly inspected rations in India, that the meat I issue here, both mutton and beef, is superior to that generally issued in India.

10. A large proportion, about half of the cattle seen by Major Davies, had just arrived from Burmah, and had not time to recover from the effects of the voyage, which may account for the dulness of their appearance; my own observation has been that the cattle are lively and have good appetites, consuming the whole of their rations.

11. The only treatment applied to sick cattle is coal tar, turpentine, mergosa oil, &c, which rather tend to disfigure the parts affected, and make them appear as though they were neglected.

12. The gram Major Davies saw was, as he states, the remains from the evening meal which he saw next morning; having been soaked all the previous day and left exposed all night, the natural consequence was that it fermented and became sour. I have none but the best grain in store.

13. Major Davies must have been misinformed regarding the time the sheep and cattle are let out. I believe he visited the farm at 6-30 A M., and found the sheep already released and out on the sea-beach awaiting their morning feed. My Serjeant was on the spot measuring out the gram for the cattle, which is always given to them at about 7 A. M., on completion of which they are sent out to graze. Major Davies must also have misunderstood the Serjeant in respect to the time he had available for looking after the cattle. His work,

except when ships are in port, is almost exclusively that of attending, which he visits at least once or generally twice a day. When the " Derbyshire" and " Marchioness of Londonderry" were discharging cargo, he was required to attend to the ships and consequently could not pay so much attention to the cattle, but I then arranged that he should be free, morning and evening, for his work at the cattle-farms, and attend on ships in port only during the day.

14. I believe that considerable mortality amongst sheep and cattle, especially in a climate like ours, is an insuperable result of keeping them as is done in a state of perpetual punishment. The voyage has a most deleterious effect on them, which they do not get over for a long time, and which in many cases results in death. It frequently happens that the sheep die off in very great numbers immediately on being landed. The consignment landed from the " King Arthur" was in a wretched condition, 150 out of 600 died during the voyage, and 14 the first day of being on shore, and many more on subsequent days. The mortality takes place principally amongst the new arrivals, of which half my stock may be said to consist of. I cannot see in what way remedial measures can be supplied so as to grapple with this matter effectually.

15. With reference to Major Davies' comparison between two bullocks in charge of a convict of the 7th division and my cattle, I have to say that I cannot see how mine can be expected to be anything like as fat as they are; nor do I consider it in any way a fair comparison. A man has two young bullocks placed in his charge, is able to feed them well, and gives them half as much as is most beneficial to them, if not over worked. I worked some of my bullocks. These are in far better condition than the others, (though I have only commenced doing so) and finally groom them, which is the most important point in the treatment of cattle, and has as much effect on them as similar treatment or neglect of it has on horses; this I cannot do with mine.

16. I can only say that if I had only 200 young bullocks given me, and an equal number of attendants as in the above case, *viz.* 100 attendants and 100 grass cutters, I would undertake in four years to produce the same result.

17. With reference to Major Davies' letter No. 3700, dated 25th April, I have to state that the cattle at Perseverance Point are in charge of a free Jemadar on Rs. 20 per mensem; those at Aberdeen are under another Jemadar also on Rs. 20 per mensem. Serjeant Whitty has the general superintendence of both these farms; and that at Perseverance Point I am not keeping up to any extent, as the jungle is not sufficiently cleared.

18. There are to-day 38 cattle and 1,134 sheep at Aberdeen; excluding men who are on other works, erecting sheds, &c., about 20 men at each place attend to them. The feed of each head of cattle is 4 pounds gram and 10 pounds forage, that is sheep 10 lbs. gram and 2 lbs. hay daily. At Port Mouat there are no cattle in my charge.

19. I enclose a return of casualties for the past twelve months which speaks for itself. The mortality in April and May 1866 was at the time remarked on by the Chief Commissioner and explained by me; since then it has been comparatively small.

20. Last year we received some wretched cattle from Burmah, the casualties amongst these immediately on arrival were considerable. I represented the case to the Commissariat Officer, Rangoon, and he has since sent us cattle of a better description, and the number of casualties has decreased.

* *Return of Cattle and Sheep on hand, killed, and died, in the* 12 *months ending* 31*st March* 1867.

	In Hand.		Slaughtered during the Month.		Issued on Indent.		Died during the Month.		Remarks.
	Cattle	Sheep.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Cattle.	Sheep.	
Remaining 1st April 1866 ...	283	933	23	218	6	12	5	170	
Received during the month ...	14	200	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Remaining 1st May 1866 ...	263	733	27	254	3	45	14	225	
Received during the month ...	107	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Remaining 1st June 1866 ...	326	209	36	111	1	22	13	40	
Remaining during the month ...	747	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Remaining 1st July 1866 ...	344	512	31	249	2	61	23	35	
Remaining 1st August 1866 ...	288	167	42	85	13	2	13	3	
Received during the month .	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Remaining 1st September 1866	220	72	53	43	0	0	10	3	
Remaining 1st October 1866 ...	154	26	52	105	1	6	8	10	
Received during the month ..	1	121	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Received 1st November 1866 .	94	24	26	251	2	25	5	48	
Received during the month ...	52	600	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Remaining 1st December 1866...	113	195	36	180	2	27	9	18	
Received during the month ...	170	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Remaining 1st January 1867 ...	233	970	31	265	3	105	2	6	
Received during the month ...	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Remaining 1st March 1867 ...	207	588	27	248	5	25	3	14	
Remaining 1st March 1867 ...	172	300	29	321	5	41	6	41	
Received during the month ...	35	1,066	0	0	0	0	0	0	

* sic in copy.—P. D.

No. 443, dated 1st May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to acknowledge your No. 63 of the 29th April last.

2. I much regret I cannot see any reason to alter my opinion already expressed; nine-tenths of the sheep and cattle are in a wretched condition. I am not a very strong man; but by way of testing the weight of the sheep, I took up one in each hand and held them out at arm's length.

3. As Lieutenant Laughton has referred to the table mutton supplied at Ross Island, I am bound to say since I penned my letter I have tasted very fair mutton. This is a practical commentary on the whole question; for no sufficient reason has been shown why excellent meat should not be procurable here, but I am bound to add that the generality of meat I have seen in the bazar here is lean to a degree, and I fear even the Magician's wand would stand palsied before some of the cattle we saw at Aberdeen, ere they could conjure up a pound of fat on the lean and skinny animals which the Commissariat Officer graphically describes as "showing the ribs considerably."

4. I believe I saw all the sheep, (any how several hundreds). The overseer and the native overseer both distinctly stated that the cattle and sheep do not generally go out to graze till between 9 and 10 o'clock. Something may be said as to sheep suffering in a slight degree on the voyage from Calcutta; but, I cannot admit that the short trip from Rangoon to this, would, with proper arrangements, cause much deterioration to cattle. If I understand Lieutenant Laughton aright, his complaint is want of sufficient labor. It is simply incomprehensible that in a place like this, labor cannot be found for those purposes which demand first consideration, while I do not consider that any addition of hands would prove an efficacious remedy. I may be permitted to suggest that planting guinea grass, digging wells, and building sheds, should be distinct operations from tending on the sheep and cattle.

5. As regards sheds, I fail to see the utility of discussing the merits of bamboos (*vide* your para. 6) where any quantity of small jungle is available, for market sheds, as appears to have been discovered from a perusal of your last para.

6. From your para. 8, I gather you consider Lieutenant Laughton's explanation satisfactory as regards rancid gram. To my mind, there is something yet to be explained. When cattle in the half-starved condition of those now at Aberdeen reject their food, and when one sees that during the past year, no less than 114 head of cattle died, to only 413 slaughtered, I am necessitated to remark that a state of things exists, the importance of which I fail to see is sufficiently recognized in Lieutenant Laughton's letter or your own, as regards the existing state of things, or the remedies to be applied. You may depend on it that close supervision will do more to effect a remedy than anything else, and on this point I see no proposals made whatever.

No. 465, dated 3rd May, 1867.

Memo from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request the favor of your furnishing him with the following information, *viz* :—

The number of cattle and sheep slaughtered in April last, and their weight in lbs., also the number of each which died a natural death.

No. 79, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—Lieut. A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to inform you, in reply to your Memo. No. 4656, dated 3rd May, that 334 sheep and 29 bullocks were slaughtered during April, producing lbs. 6,326 10oz. of mutton and lbs. 5,937-12oz. of beef.

2. There were five deaths amongst the bullocks, and 76 amongst the sheep; 19 deaths occurred from 1st to 15th, and 57 from 16th to 30th April. The "Merchantman" brought 600 sheep on the 16th, of which 37 died on the voyage, and nine the day of arrival. There were 1,058 sheep on hand on 1st May.

No. 30, dated 6th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

I have the honor to forward for your information copy of a letter No. 443 of the 1st instant to my address, from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, in continuation of the correspondence that has passed on the subject of the present condition of the Commissariat cattle, and in inviting your consideration of the various points mooted by Major Davies, I would request you to give particular effect to any of that Officer's suggestions that

may occur to you would be beneficial to try with a view to an improvement of the Commissariat cattle and sheep.

I would beg more particularly to draw your attention to the concluding portion of the last para. of Major Davies' letter, wherein he states that a close supervision will do more to effect a remedy than anything else.

No. 108.

Memo. by Superintendent, Port Blair.

Copy forwarded to Major H. N. Davies, Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, for information, with reference to his letter No. 443 of the 1st instant.

No. 91, dated 7th May, 1867.

From—Lieut. A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 30, dated 6th May, forwarding a further communication (No. 443, dated 1st May) to your address from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, on the subject of the present condition of the Commissariat cattle.

2. My best endeavors shall be employed in carrying out Major Davies' suggestions, and in personally inspecting and supervising the work, though I would observe that this matter has always had my personal careful attention.

3. I have accompanied the Officers of the Sanitary Committee now assembled on their visit to my sheds, and am happy to be able to say that both Dr. Rean and Dr. Cowie expressed to me an opinion on the condition of my cattle and sheep different to that entertained by Major Davies.

4 Calcutta sheep are small, weighing generally under 20 lbs; the fact therefore of being able to hold out two of them does not prove whether they are thin or in good condition for their size.

5. Major Davies appears to be under the impression that the table mutton is different to that sold in the bazaar. This is not the case; it is all alike.

6. As to the deleterious effect of a voyage on cattle and sheep, I have to say that facts bear out my assertion, not only that they may suffer to a "slight degree" as expressed by Major Davies, but sometimes to a very considerable extent, or so many would not die on board. Out of 600 brought by the "King Arthur," 105 died on board, 24 died on the "Michael Angelo," 37 on the "Merchantman;" 3 bullocks died on the "Prince Arthur" one voyage, and nine on another, the remainder when landed were very sick; six never left the beach, but died there within a few days, and many more on subsequent days; thus the mortality is swelled after arrival on shore.

7 When from a paucity of hands I am unable to provide shelter for my cattle and sheep, which in this climate is one of the primary points to be attended to, I cannot understand how the matter of labor does not bear on the subject, nor how any addition in this respect would not prove an efficacious remedy.

8. I am confident that, if I obtain what I ask for, I shall be able to prove by results that much depends upon this point.

9. I would wish *first* that the work of building sheds be taken out of my hands, and that as many as I require be built for me with raised floors for sheep, allowing one square yard for each sheep and three square yards for each bullock; *secondly*, that my cattle be removed from the swamps in which they now are to the ridge immediately above it. If these two points are attended to, I shall have a healthy locality and more hands for attending to the wants and cleanliness of the cattle, which cannot but have a beneficial effect. The deleterious effects of the voyage can be remedied only by having healthy and strong animals sent us in well ventilated ships without overcrowding them. The "Derbyshire" brought us 1,000 sheep with only six casualties; the "Shelomith" 600 without one casualty. This shews that the sheep were well cared for on board and more healthy in consequence when landed, which proved itself from the fact that there was no great increase of mortality amongst them after arrival.

10. I would beg to observe in conclusion, and in reply to Major Davies' concluding para, that I am fully alive to the importance of this subject; it has had and will have my best attention, nor would I have entered into the above explanations in the spirit that I have done, did I feel that my endeavors had been in any way acknowledged. I cannot however but be disheartened at being told that the matter has had no attention paid to it, when I have been working against difficulties for upwards of two years, and that with improved results.

No. 121, dated 8th May, 1867.

Memo. by Superintendent, Port Blair.

Copy forwarded to Major H N. Davies, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, in continuation of this Office Memo. No. 108 of the 6th instant, forwarding copy of the undersigned's No. 30 to the Sub-Assistant Commissary General of Port Blair.

No. 488, dated 6th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that the Committee, of which Surgeon Rean is President, purpose visiting Aberdeen this evening; while there, they will inspect the live stock. I request you will be good enough to be present, and have the cattle divided into three portions, *viz* :—

1.—Those you consider fat and of superior condition.

2.—Those which you consider would yield good ration beef.

3.—Those which are superior. The sheep will also be inspected.

No. 486, dated 6th May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request full and explicit information with reference to the column headed "Issued on Indent" with a sub-heading of cattle and sheep, in the return of cattle and sheep received with your No. To whom were these cattle and sheep issued, and for what purpose, and at what rate, and on whose order?

No. 489, dated 6th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—SURGEON REAN.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to forward herewith copy of letter No. 488 of this day's date, to the address of the Commissariat Officer at this Settlement, and with reference to my No. 447, I enclose death rate of cattle and sheep for past year, also weight of out-turn of meat from the cattle and sheep slaughtered during past month.

I request you will be good enough to report on the present state of cattle; the number of each class and sheep generally, and whether the Committee consider the locality of the sheds in close proximity with a swamp, wholesome; also whether the sheds are not far too crowded, and whether the Overseer of stock should not reside on the spot.

No. 88, dated 7th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT. A. F. LAUGHTON, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to enclose, in reply to your Memo. No. 486, dated 6th May, a Statement giving full particulars relative to the issue of sheep and cattle.

Statement of Cattle and Sheep issued on indent from 1*st April to* 31*st March,* 1867.

SHEEP.	No.	Value Recovered.			REMARKS.	SHEEP.	No.	Value Recovered.			REMARKS.
1866						1866					
April ...	1	6	8	0	Dett. 25th Regt. N. I.	December...	1	6	8	0	Steamer "Quang Tung."
	2	13	0	0	Ditto Sappers and Miners.		2	0	0	0	South Point issued on miscellaneous contracts for convicts.
	4	26	0	0	Dalhousie.						
	1	6	8	0	Mr Norman.						
	4	26	0	0	Ship "Combermere."		2	13	0	0	Steamer "Arracan."
May ...	2	13	0	0	"Ava."		20	0	0	0	Cocos Light House.
	2	13	0	0	Captain Hill.	1867					
	2	13	0	0	Ditto.	January ...	1	6	8	0	Steamer "Quang Tung."
	1	6	8	0	Naga Cooshumun.		100	0	0	0	Mr. Homfray, Port Mouat.
	80	0	0	0	Mr. Homfray, Port Mouat.		1	6	8	0	Mr. Scott.
	2	13	0	0	Ship "Empress of India."		2	Misc Cont.		...	South Port for Convicts.
	3	19	8	0	" "Sir Hugh Rose."		1	6	8	0	Free Police, Aberdeen.
	2	13	0	0	" "Empress of India."	February...	1	6	8	0	"Quang Tung."
	1	6	8	0	Offi. Com Dett 25th Regt.		2	Misc. Cont.		...	South Port for Convicts.
June ...	10	0	0	0	Mr. Homfray, Port Mouat.		3	19	8	0	"Quang Tung."
	12	78	0	0	Cocos Light-House.		20	0	0	0	Cocos Light House.
July ...	3	19	8	0	Major Graves, 25th Regt.	March ...	6	39	0	0	"Quang Tung."
	8	52	0	0	Steamer "Feroze."		20	0	0	0	Mr. Homfray, Port Mouat.
	50	0	0	0	Mr. Homfray, Port Mouat.		1	6	8	0	Nagapah Pillay.
August ...	2	13	0	0	Steamer "Prince Arthur."		2	Misc Cont.		...	South Port for Convicts.
October ...	1	6	8	0	Nursimloo.		6	39	0	0	"Prince Arthur."
	5	0	0	0	Mr. Homfray, Port Mouat.		3	19	8	0	Head Monshee.
November...	25	0	0	0	Ditto		1	6	8	0	Gangsman Gopauloo.
December ...	2	13	0	0	Mr. Berril.		2	13	0	0	"Arracan."

Statement of Bullocks issued on indent from 1st April to 31st March, 1867—(Concluded.)

Bullocks.	No.	Value Recovered.			Remarks.	Bullocks.	No.	Value Recovered.			Remarks.
1866						1866					
April ...	Cows 6	0	0	0	Dept. Public Works	November ...	1	15	12	0	Mr. Scott.
May ...	3	0	0	0	Mr. Homfray, Port Mouat.	December ...	1	15	12	0	Mr. Pope.
June ..	1	40	0	0	Cocos Light House.		Cow 1	0	0	0	Cocos Light-house.
July ...	1	15	12	0	Steamer "Feroze"	1867					
	Cow 1	15	12	0	Mr Bryant.	January ...	1	15	12	0	Mr. DeCastro.
August ...	10	0	0	0	Mr. Homfray, Port Mouat for slaughter.		1	15	12	0	Norry self-supporter.
						February ...	5	0	0	0	Cocos Light-house.
	8	0	0	0	Mr. Homfray, Port Mouat.	March ...	2	31	0	0	Capt. Conrider.
October ...	1	15	12	0	Mr. Berril.		2	90	0	0	Comdr. "Prince Arthur."
November ...	1	15	12	0	Mr. Troy.		1	15	12	0	Dr. Gamark.

The above were issued on indents sanctioned by the Superintendent. The payments on indents for articles issued to Port Mouat and Cocos Light-House were not made at time of issue, but settled subsequently by the Superintendent, the prices are not, therefore, inserted. Rs. 6-8 per sheep and 15-12 per bullock has been the long established rate at which they have been issued. The question as to whether a cow and a calf should be sold at that rate or at 50 Rs. has been referred to Government, but no answer has been yet received.

No. 541, dated 8th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request information regarding the stock farm at Aberdeen. Please explain what is done with the produce—milk, butter, young stock, and so on. On what terms are cattle, pigs, &c., made available for purchase alive or slaughtered. At Aberdeen is also a Commissariat stock farm; here also is a Hospital. Now we would have supposed that the milk required for this Hospital would be supplied from the Government farm; but I understand the Commissariat have to procure milk for this Hospital. Is this so? Akin to this subject I wish to know if the Commissariat Officer is prohibited grazing his cattle along the roads at Aberdeen. Please favor me with a return in the following form, stating the date on which the Aberdeen farm was commenced.

Return of certain particulars regarding the Government Model Stock Farm at Aberdeen which was instituted in the year 18 .

1.	Year.		
2.	No. of Live Stock originally supplied.	Cattle.	
		Pigs.	
3	No. of Stock received during the year.	Cattle.	
		Pigs.	
4.	No. of Births during the year.	Calves	
		Pigs.	
5.	Total of Stock.	Cattle.	
		Calves.	
		Pigs.	
6.	Amount paid for Stock exhibiting freight	Rs.	
7	Amount paid or creditable for food, shelter, attendance of all other charges.	Rs.	
8.	Total Expenditure.	Rs.	
9.	No. sold during the year.	Cattle.	
		Calves.	
		Pigs.	
10.	No. slaughtered during the year.	Cattle.	
		Calves.	
		Pigs.	
11.	No. died during the year.	Cattle.	
		Calves.	
		Pigs.	
12.	Amount realized during the year by sale of Live Stock.	For Cattle Rs.	
		For Calves Rs.	
		For Pigs Rs.	
13.	Amount realized during the year by sale of slaughtered animals.	For Cattle Rs	
		For Calves Rs	
		For Pigs Rs	
14.	Amount realized by sale of milk yearly	Rs.	
15	Amount realized during the year by sale of hide, horns, &c.	Rs	
16.	Total cash receipts	Rs.	
17.	Where the money is deposited.		
	REMARKS.		

No. 174, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 541 of the 8th instant, requesting information regarding a stock farm at "Aberdeen," and requesting me to explain what is done with the produce—milk, butter, the young stock, &c. and so on, and on what terms cattle, pigs, &c., are made available for purchase.

2. In reply I have the honor to inform you, that the stock at "Aberdeen" is very small, consisting of a few head of cattle, sheep and lambs (amongst which I have thrown sheep of good breed of my own). These, as a rule, I have not allowed to be slaughtered, having preferred to keep them as a stand-by in case of any unforeseen difficulty occurring to the Commissariat Department at any time by death of cattle or sheep, as well as to ascertain by fair growth, whether any improvement has been effected in the quantity of stock; the same may be said of pigs, except that I have found them to deteriorate by breeding. I have offered free 2 pairs to any convict who might desire to breed pigs themselves for Settlement sales; my offer as yet has not been very readily taken up.

3. With regard to your enquiry as to the Commissariat stock, I give below the information supplied me by Lieutenant Laughton on the subject. Convict Hospitals are not supplied with any thing from the Commissariat. The Hospitals of Troops obtain their milk from that Department, and the balance is sold. This balance can be given over to Convict Hospitals if desirable. The cattle were found to cut up the roads and eat young plants, and have therefore been kept from going about on them as much as possible. The sheep go wherever they can find grazing, and the cattle are sent to the jungle.

4. Attached to your letter is a form of return requesting certain particulars regarding the Government Model Stock Farm at Aberdeen. These particulars I can supply; but as a number of records will have to be examined and extracted from to form a reliable return, and as the Overseer is ill, and as it will take time to get the same up correctly, I beg that you will be satisfied with the report that I now give you, and await such further particulars as you call for till I can dispatch the same to you by the next mail.

No. 516, dated 16th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to point out that the circuit-house which, being on the brow of the hills, gets none of the winds from the E. or N. E., it is however backed on the east by the Station burying ground, which lies within a few feet; on the north it is shut in by the cooking houses; on the south the Police guard-house is built close to it, and now I understand it is proposed to build a range of clerks' lines close in front, within a few feet; in fact it is said that this row will be built further down the slope, only the roof will be seen.

I consider such an erection will not only be obnoxious to persons who may have to reside in the circuit-house, which is already completely shut in, but also no worse site could be found for the clerks, jammed up, as their houses will be, against a dead wall of earth, I therefore request, in the name of the Chief Commissioner, some other site may be found for the Clerks' lines, and that no building may be built between the circuit-house, and the line of huts now existing on the west side of the circuit-house, without the special sanction of the Chief Commissioner.

Regarding space, there is room for a row of Clerks' lines on the south side; the European prisoners' range is badly placed, and situated as it is in the bazar, another suitable spot should be found and the space might do for clerks.

No. 146, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 516, dated 6th May 1867, on the subject of the site of the Circuit-house, consequent on the receipt of which I addressed Lieutenant Cumming, Executive Engineer, Port Blair, in my letter No. 25 EE (copy attached) on the following day.

2. I now beg to enclose a copy of that Officer's reply (No. 71, dated the 10th instant) in which you will observe that he considers that there is not enough room for either European or Native Clerks' quarters on the site to the south of the European prisoners' barracks.

3. Lieutenant Cumming considers that a better site for the European Clerks' quarters would be obtained on the spot on which the convict women are now temporarily located; this site will shortly be available, as I purpose as soon as I can have one of the temporary convict sections that is nearest to the European Troops Barracks vacated, to transfer a certain portion of the women on Ross Island here, to removing the remainder to Haddo.

4. Lieutenant Cumming suggests that a site for Native clerks' quarters might be found behind that above referred to in last para., but more to the south; there will be some difficulty in moving the occupants of these huts as they are free people, being married to Chinese artificers, Superintendent's Office Clerks "Moung Myeen," Scripture Reader, Officers'

servants, &c. Other accommodations would have to be constructed for these people at Government expense, and compensation given for their dwellings, which will have to be removed.

4. I observe that Lieutenant Cumming, in para. 5 of his letter, now concurs with you in the objections that you have raised regarding the site now being cut out in front of the circuit house for the European clerks' quarters, and thinks that it might be as well to choose another site. For my own part I am willing to assist in such a selection, and that the work should be at once commenced if there be no necessity of reference to the Chief Engineer. British Burmah, which I should mention it had occurred to me would probably be requisite, as the design for these quarters has already been, I believe, twice altered.*

No. 25 EE, dated 7th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

To—*Executive Engineer, Port Blair.*

No. 516, dated 6th May 1867.

I have the honor to forward herewith copy of a letter to my address from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, as per margin, who, in the name of the Chief Commissioner, objects to the present site now being excavated for the Clerks' lines, and requests that no building be built between the circuit house and the line of the huts now existing on the west side of this house, without the special sanction of the Chief Commissioner.

2. You will observe that Major Davies considers that there is room for a row of Clerks' lines on the south side of the European prisoners' barracks.

3. He also recommends that Clerks' lines be constructed on the site on which the temporary barracks for female convicts now stand.

4. As the site now chosen and in course of cutting out for the Clerks' lines was fixed on, with the approval of both your predecessor, the late Senior Medical Officer, yourself, and myself also, I am of opinion that it would be advisable, under the circumstances, that you should refer this matter to the Chief Engineer, British Burmah ; but should you think otherwise, I should be glad to be favored with the expression of your views upon this matter.

No. 71, dated 10th May, 1867.

From—Lieutenant W. G. Cumming, R. E., *Executive Engineer, Port Blair,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 25 E E, of the 7th instant, together with copy of letter No. 51 of the 6th instant, from the Secretary to Chief Commissioner. British Burmah, to your address, both with reference to the situation of the European Clerks' quarters on Ross Island about to be constructed shortly.

With regard to the concluding para. of Major Davies' letter under consideration, I have the honor to state that the site to the south of the European prisoners' barracks indicated by the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, is much too small for either the European or Native Clerks' quarters, which, exclusive of drains round these buildings, are each 180 feet long, whilst the site indicated above will hardly admit of a building 100 feet long, being built on it.

A better site for the European Clerks' quarters would be obtained on the spot on which the convict women are located running northward towards the thatched houses in which the Commissariat Storekeeper lives.

The Native clerks' quarters might be behind this again, but more to the south. As these sites will necessitate the removal of a considerable number of temporary huts, I should feel obliged by your definitely fixing them, as the plan and the estimate is now before Government for sanction.

With regard to the many objections raised by Major Davies concerning the site now being excavated in front of the Circuit-house for European Clerks' quarters, I beg to state that I concur generally in them ; and as a very considerable amount of labor is still required to prepare this site (which has been suspended for some time) I think it might be as well to choose another one, if available, which can be prepared with little or no difficulty ; should the subject be referred to Burmah, a considerable amount of delay will be experienced, which should be avoided, if possible, by all means.

No. 318, dated 17th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

The undersigned has the honor to request you will send him :—

1.—One suit of convict clothing of every description as at present used.

2.—A Memo. shewing the number of suits of each description in store on 30th April 1866.

3.—The number of each description issued during 1866-67 up to date.

4.—The number received back into store during that period.

5.—The number of each description of suit remaining in store on this date.

6.—With each suit please attach a Memo. shewing the cost of the cloth of each description.

7. Where it was procured from.
8. The charge for making up.
9. The number of suits of each description issued annually to each convict should also be satated.
10. You are also requested to state whether any clothing is supplied by Government to self-supporters; or—
11. To convict shop-keepers.
12. Whether on a convict becoming a self-supporter, his convict clothing is retained by him, or returned into store.
13. On the demise of convicts what becomes of their Government clothing, which has not been in use the prescribed period.
14. The total cost actually incurred or debited against the Settlement during the year 1866 67 for convict clothing of every description.

No. 10, dated 25th April, 1867.

From—Dr. A. Cowie, *Senior Surgeon, and President of Sanitary Committee, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In para. 26 (clothing) of your instructions for my Committee, you state that Rs. 45,000 were expended in 1866 in clothing 6,000 convicts; I have the honor to request that you will inform me how many convicts in 1866 clothed themselves, and whether these latter received any of the above clothing from Government free.

No. 380, dated 25th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request Colonel Ford will have the goodness to note below:—

1*st.*—How many convicts clothed themselves in 1866-67; and—

2*nd.*—How many were clothed by Government, and return this paper to the undersigned.

No. 37, dated — 1867.

Memo from—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

No. of convicts who were clothed by Government in 1866-67	6,095
No. of convicts who clothed themselves in 1866-67	496

No. 396, dated 27th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, with reference to his No. 318 of the 17th instant, to state there appears great delay in furnishing the information called for regarding convict clothing. The undersigned requests that, in the course of this day, you will have the goodness to fill in and return the accompanying form and forward it to him. The full return called for by No. 318 is also urgently required.

Abstract of Convict Clothing Account for the year 1866-67, *exclusive of all Hospital Clothing, but including Blankets issued to Convicts out of Hospital, the latter to be shewn separately.*

Description of Cloth in store on 30th April 1866, and No. of Blankets.	Quantity of Cloth in yards and No. of Blankets.	Quantity of Cloth of description given in Col. 1, and Blankets received from 1st May 1866 to 27th May 1867.	Quantity of Cloth of description given in Col. 1, and Blankets issued from 1st May 1866 to 27th April 1867.	Balance of Cloth of description as in Col. 1, and Blankets remaining in hand on 27th April 1867.	Remarks.

No. 45, dated 27th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor, with reference to Memo. No. 396 of this day's date, to forward attached return therein called for.

Abstract of Convict Clothing Account for 1866-67, *exclusive of all Hospital Clothing, but including Blankets issued to Convicts out of Hospital, the latter shewn separately.*

Description of Cloth in store on 30th April 1866 and No. of Blankets.	Quantity of Cloth in yards and Blankets in No.	Quantity of Cloth of description as in Col. 1, and Blankets received from 1st May 1866 to 27th April 1867.	Quantity of Cloth of description as in Col. 1, and Blankets issued from 1st May 1866 to 27th April 1867.	Balance of Cloth of description as in Col. 1, and Blankets remaining in hand on 27th April 1867.
Serge, blue ...	125 yards.	...	100 yards.	25 yards.
American Cloth ...	...	21,490 yards.	20,924 "	566 "
Blue Drill ...	586 "	2,608 "	2,446 "	680 "
White Drill ..	..	3,170 "	1,253 "	1,917 "
Punjum Cloth ...	22,874 "	66,457 "	44,989 "	44,342 "
Dosotee ...	.	13,911 "	12,348 "	1,563 "
Dungaree ...	...	936 "	936 "	...
Grey Cloth ...	...	300 "	150 "	150 "
Blankets ...	..	4,705 No.	4,705 No.	...

No. 406, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge receipt of your Memo. No. 37, dated 27th instant, on the subject of convict clothing, and now requests you will be good enough to state how many suits of clothing each of the 6,095 convicts received during the year 1866-1867.

No. 407, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—President of Sanitary Committee, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, in reply to your letter No. 10 of 25th instant, on the subject of convict clothing, to state that on application being made to Colonel Ford for the information you require, he puts down the number of convicts who were clothed by Government in 1866-67 at 6,095, and convicts who clothed themselves in 1866-67, 496.

The undersigned has applied to Colonel Ford to know how many suits each received.

No. 460, dated 2nd May, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to call attention to this Office letter No. 318, dated 17th April 1867, on the subject of convict clothing.

No. 88, dated 3rd May, 1867.

Memo. from—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In acknowledging the receipt of the Chief Commissioner's Memo. No. 460 of yesterday's date, the undersigned has the honor to state, that the information required in Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 318 is near completion; but regrets to say that, while in the preparation of it this day, Mr. Fox, the Officiating Head Clerk of this Office, has been suddenly taken ill and obliged to leave the Office. As he only can competently complete the information required, there being none now but *prisoners* in the Office of the undersigned, it is requested that the reply may not be pressed for, for a day or two, as otherwise there will be a risk of error in it.

No. 142, dated 9th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 318 of the 17th April, requesting me, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to furnish certain information in connection

with the supply of clothing to convicts at Port Blair. The information required is noted under 14 different heads, numbered from 1 to 14, and to which I reply *seriatim*.

No. 1.—One suit of clothing of every description, as at present issued, is forwarded herewith, together with one suit of Hospital clothing and bedding complete.

No. 2.—On the 30th April 1866 the number of suits in hand stood as follows:—

Cloth for making up 4,468 suits of men's clothing, in yards		23,460
Add received during the year 1866-67, in yards—		
May 1866	528	
June	4,510	
July	2,051	
August	...	
September	5,223·5	
October	34,058	
December	4,771·5	
January 1867	15,000	
March	42,000	
		108,572
Total yards ...		132,032

No. 3.—The number of each description issued during 1866-67 and up to April 1867 is as under.—

19,171	Dhooties in yards	67,108 of	3·5	yards each
18,548	Koortas	35,458 of	1 75	"
1,095	Female Sarees	5,474 of	5	"
1,095	" Koortas	1,642 of	1·5	"
232	Pyjamas	580 of	2·5	"
98	Pugrees	196 of	2	"
34	Coats	102 of	3	"
721	Marine Koortas	2.163 of	3	"
31	Suits of punishment clothing for Christian convicts ...	186 of	6	"
153	Jangeeas for Hospital use	225 of	1·5	"
150	Koortas	262 of	1·75	"
150	Caps	75 of	·5	"
	Total	113,472		

giving a balance of cloth in hand on 17th April of 18 560 yards.

No. 4.—It is not customary to receive convict clothing back into store when once issued, nor has any ever been so received On the death of a convict, he is buried in a suit of his clothes and any other that belonged to him is collected by the Overseer of his Division and distributed in lieu of, or, as far as it goes, for repairing such clothing as becomes worn out by extra hard work, or is lost, or, as is now the case since the establishment of a paper manufactory, made over for the manufacture of country paper.

No. 5.—The number of suits in hand on 17th April amounted to 3,535, equal to 18,560 yards of cloth, as noted in para. 3.

No. 6.—One yard piece of cloth hitherto used for convict clothing are forwarded for inspection with the price marked on each.

No. 7.—Punjum and Dosooty cloths of native manufacture have been procured from Madras and Calcutta; the others from the Commissariat and Clothing Agency Departments.

No. 8.—Convict labor being employed in making up the clothing, no expenditure has been incurred save for needles, scissors, cotton, wax, &c., amounting to Rs. 81-2-6.

No. 9.—An annual issue is made of 3 koortas and 3 dhotees to each male convict, and of 2 sarees and 3 koortas to females, under para. 5 of letter No. 23, dated 14th January 1864, from Superintendent of Port Blair to Secretary to Government in the Home Department, (copy attached.) "Putzoes" are issued to Burmese prisoners, but during the past official year cloth was issued in consequence of there being no Putzoes in hand; a supply has, however, since come to hand, and are being served out.

To convicts attached to the 9th Division, an additional annual issue of 1 serge coat and cap is made.

No. 10.—Self-supporting convicts are not supplied with Government clothing.

No. 11.—Neither are convict shop-keepers.

No. 12.—A convict being permitted to become a self-supporter retains the suit of clothing already issued to him, but he receives no more so long as he remains as such.

No. 13.—On the demise of a convict, his clothing is disposed of as noted in answer to question No. 4.

No. 14.—The total outlay passed through the books for the year 1866-67 amounts to Rupees 42-047-13-7.

No 143, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

As bearing upon the subject of convict clothing on which you desire information in your No. 318 of the 17th ultimo, and which was replied to by my No. 142 of the 9th instant, I have the honor to enclose correspondence as per margin, which I beg may be read in connection with that matter and attached to my letter above quoted.

P S.—Attached is a list of clothing forwarded to you with my letter No. 142 of the 9th instant.

No. 180 of 14th April 1864, from Superintendent of Port Blair, to Offg. Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.

No. 533 of 1st June 1864, from Secretary to Government of India, to Superintendent, Port Blair.

No. 03078, dated 6th Sept. 1864, from Secretary to Chief Commissioner, to Commissioner, Tenasserim Division.

No. 23 of 27th July 1864, from Superintendent, Port Blair, to Commissioner, Tenasserim Division.

No. 75 of 1st October 1865, from Superintendent, Port Blair, to Commissioner, Tenasserim Division.

No. 04232, dated 19th November 1864, from Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, to Superintendent, Port Blair.

No. 21 of 9th December 1864, from Superintendent, Port Blair, to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

No 33 of 9th February 1865, from Offg. Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, to Superintendent, Port Blair.

No. 136, dated 7th April 1865, from Superintendent, Port Blair, to Secretary, Chief Commissioner.

No. 82 of 30th 1865, from Superintendent, Port Blair, to Chief Commissioner.

No. 267 of 11th July 1864, from Senior Medical Officer, Port Blair, to Superintendent, Port Blair.

Extract from letter No. 23, dated 14th June 1864, from Offg. Superintendent, Port Blair, to Offg. Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.

No. 180, dated 14th April, 1864.

From—Major B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Offg. Secretary to Government of India, Home Department.*

On General Sir Robert Napier, President in Council, visiting this Settlement in October last, he gave orders for the issue of one day's pay and three suits of clothing with two blankets to each prisoner gratis; this was done by my predecessor Colonel Tytler, cost of which the Civil Pay Master having since retrenched, I have the honor to solicit sanction of Government to the charge.

2. In making this application, I would desire to take this opportunity of begging that I may be informed if the above issue of clothing is to be continued gratis annually.

No. 533, dated 1st June, 1864.

From—E. C. Bayley, Esq., *Secretary to Government of India, Home Department,*

To—*Offg. Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 180, dated 14th April, requesting sanction to a charge incurred on account of the issue to each prisoner of certain articles of clothing on the occasion of Sir Robert Napier's visit to the Settlement.

2. In reply I am directed to bring to your notice that you have not specified the amount required to be sanctioned. In cases such as this, involving sanction of expenditure, it is absolutely necessary that the fullest and most explicit information should be afforded to the Government.

3. I am also instructed to observe that, in asking if it was intended that the grant should be annual, you should have reported upon the necessity or otherwise of the measure. Three suits of clothing annually for each prisoner appear to form a large allowance, and I am desired to request that you will report what they consist of, what they cost per man, and furnish any other particulars bearing upon the subject.

No. 03078, dated 6th September, 1864.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Commissioner, Tenasserim Division, Moulmein.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to acknowledge your letter No. 421 of 25th August, forwarding Major Ford's letter No. 23 of 27th July on the subject of clothing.

2. The Chief Commissioner understands Major Ford recommends for each prisoner two light suits of clothing and one serge jumper or loose jacket, total three suits annually. Should Dr. Morton recommend the above scale, the Chief Commissioner considers it will be proper to allow the above complement of clothing.

3. Regarding blankets it is presumed Major Ford has already taken steps to comply with Sir Robert Napier's instructions.

No. 57, dated 8th September, 1864.

Endorsed by Commissioner, Tenasserim Division.

Copy forwarded to the Superintendent of Port Blair for his information and guidance.

No. 23, dated 27th July, 1864.

From—MAJOR B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Commissioner Tenasserim Division, British Burmah.*

In continuation of my Report on clothing to the Secretary to Government of India, copy of which was furnished you under date 14th June 1864, (marked B.), I have the honor now to apprize you that every convict has had one good warm blanket served out to him,—a supply of 3,450 having been received in the ship "Tubal Cain" from Calcutta.

2. His Honor the President in Council was pleased to order two blankets to be given each man; these were ordered immediately, but the supply now received only admits of the above issue at present. On the 14th June last I reported to the Secretary to the Government, Home Department, the non-arrival of these blankets, and I have no doubt he accelerated the despatch of those since received; 4,550 of this order still to be supplied.

3. With regard to the subject of clothing, I beg to enclose a letter in original from Surgeon Major Morton, Senior Medical Officer of Port Blair, recommending a stronger and somewhat warmer kind of clothing for the convicts; the material that he recommends is the same as some I have already introduced a small quantity of here (experimentally now in use), and which he has seen, and of which I have already sent a specimen to Government.

4. I also beg to enclose copy of a letter from Mr. J. N. Homfray, Harbour Master, who applies for two suits of serge per annum for his men. This application I strongly support; his Division is the hardest-worked, and the healthiest. It is true he messed his men, and I believe could that system entirely prevail here, it would be best; but I attribute great benefit to these men wearing woollen; it saves them from cold and fever, and chest complaints very much. Though they are constantly wet and exposed afloat, they are very free from such illness. Mr. Homfray also gives his men a serge cap of native pattern. Indeed, I think it would be very desirable to issue to every convict on the Settlement a serge jumper or shirt once a year every June, to be worn on all out-door duty when the weather is at all threatening; with care it would last them till the following January, when all the monsoon weather would be passed. I beg strongly to recommend as, another means for reducing the number of our sick, that Government be moved to grant this extra warm clothing.

No. 75, dated 1st October, 1864.

From—MAJOR B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Commissioner, Tenasserim Division, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to acknowledge through you the receipt by the last mail of letter to my address No. 533, dated 1st June 1864, (copy attached) from the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, on the subject of clothing for convicts.

2. In para. 2 of the above letter, it is noticed that I have not specified the amount required to be sanctioned, in reply to which I beg respectfully to state that, at the time I wrote soliciting sanction to meet the expenses then being incurred for clothing, it was that I might be prepared to adjust the charges of the Commissariat Department for the supply of clothing then under issue, but which charges at the time of my writing, however, not having been received, I was not able to mention the cost.

3. I now beg to submit a statement of account attached marked A, showing the total expenses incurred on the issue of three suits of clothing to all convicts on the Settlement up to the present time.

4. The laboring convicts have all received three suits of Alipore Jail or somewhat similar clothing, and the remaining convicts (who are required to provide themselves) not self-supporting, have been dressed uniformly according to their occupation. All the convicts have one blanket and a cumblee or two blankets; the few who still require a second blanket will receive them on the next arrival here of the "Tubal Cain." (Since this letter was drafted, the "Tubal Cain" has arrived with the blankets.)

5. The account shows a total sum of Rs. 29,804-15-1 for supplying three suits of clothing and 2 blankets to 3,323 convicts, to which should be added cost of Hospital clothing Rs. 6,947-5-3; the value of blankets in hand (8,000) having been added, and 5 per cent. to meet contingencies, total Rupees 44,398-10-3, to disburse which amount I beg to solicit sanction.

6. There is no provision for the above expenditure made in the Budget Estimate in the current year.

7. With regard to the 3rd para. of Mr. Bayley's letter, *see* margin, I beg respectfully to state that, on considering Sir Robert Napier's order for the supply as soon as practicable of clothing (*see* para. 1 under head annexures, page 15 of His Honor's note on Port Blair) in connection with Clause 9 under head Summary (*see* the preceding pages 13 and 14) it appeared to me that the two paragraphs taken together purported that for the future a supply of clothing would be furnished, and under this impression I did not presume to report on the necessity or otherwise of the measure.

I am also instructed to observe in asking if it was intended the grant should be annual, you should have reported upon the necessity or otherwise of the measure.

8. Referring to the remaining portion of the 3rd paragraph of the letter above acknowledged, I beg to add that I consider that nothing less than three suits of clothing of the kind already proposed will last the convict through the year for the following reasons :—

1*st*.—Because the clothing is light and coarse* in texture, and this being a milder climate than most of the convicts have hitherto lived in, they are unwilling to set aside the little warmth afforded by it, and so wear it constantly day and night.

Very open in weft, and therefore not strong.

2*nd*.—Because the labor that is daily required of the convict tends by its character to wear out his clothing almost too full,—earth works and jungle works, carrying iron and stones, working afloat, barrack building, road making, and the like employments in a place where during two-thirds of the year their labor is done in wet and mud, leaves but very little to show after a month's wear of a suit of Alipore Jail clothing.

3*rd*.—Because what with constant wear and tear of these three suits of clothes which allow the convict but a suit on his back, a dry suit to put on if he comes from work wet, and a suit at wash to put on clean after the Sunday bathing parade for the medical inspection that follows, it is doubtful if those three suits would last half a year, if made of the poor flimsy material issued for this first year's clothing. I have already submitted a specimen of a more lasting material which has been approved, and of which three suits ought to stand one year's wear ; the supply of clothing now issued consists of three koortahs and three dhootees per man.

9. His Honor the President in Council ordered "jungheeas," but dhootees appear to have been indented for by my predecessor, Colonel Tytler, instead, and which I consider more adapted to the climate and suitable for general wear.

10. Three suits of clothing from Alipore cost per convict Rs. 4-12-8, but as there is some difference in the clothing issued according to the occupation of the men, the average cost of clothing to all convicts is Rs. 5-9-1 without, and Rs. 9-6-8 with, two blankets per man.

11. Since the above was written I have received from yourself copy of communication as per margin from Secretary to the Chief Commissioner and Agent to the Governor General to your address, in which he has sanctioned, subject to Dr. Morton's approval, two suits of clothing and one large jumper to be issued annually to the convicts; and for the Harbour Master's Division (the 9th) one light suit and two large jumpers annually.

No. A 03078, dated 6th September, 1864.

12. I beg to point out that originally three suits of clothing annually were considered requisite, and the annual allowance to each man should be

To ordinary laboring Convicts	*To 9th Division.*
2 coarse cotton koortas.	1 coarse cotton koorta.
1 large jumper.	2 large jumpers.
3 dhootees.	3 dhootees.

13. The cost of this serge clothing must therefore be added to the above calculation (*see* paras 5 and 10), and Rs. 6-4-1 may therefore be taken as the average annual cost (without blankets) of clothing per convict. For outlay at this rate, I beg now to solicit preliminary sanction to enable me to commence preparations for the provision of the clothing for the ensuing year.

14. I propose that the clothing be all made up by convicts here, and that all gangsmen provide themselves.

15. I have not included blankets in the estimate for the ensuing year as I consider the two allowed should last each man two years ; and if convicts hereafter sent here are properly provided, agreeably to existing orders with two blankets in the jails they are forwarded from, no more will be required till 1866.

A

Statement showing cost of issue for 1864 *of Clothing and Blankets to* 3,323 *Convicts at Port Blair.*

	Rs.	As.	P.
To Blankets received from Calcutta	12,788	12	0
„ clothing received from Alipore Jail	12,767	8	0
„ „ made up on the Settlement to complete three suits each to all convicts then present	2,440	9	3
„ materials for clothing for Police and crew of "Diana" and orderlies' belts, &c. ...	762	10	0
„ Serge for Harbour Master's Division for warm clothing	931	6	10
„ Tailoring for ditto	144	0	0
	29,804	15	1
Add cost of Hospital Clothing	6,947	5	3
„ value of Blankets in hand	6,156	2	0
„ 5 per cent Contingencies	1,490	3	11
Total ...	44,398	10	3

No. 04232, dated 19th November, 1864

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to acknowledge your No. 75, dated 1st October last, on the subject of clothing of convicts. In reply, I am desired to state, the Chief Commissioner is desirous of sanctioning whatever is really necessary, but the scale of clothing proposed by you is in excess, the Chief Commissioner believes, of what is allowed for trans-marine convicts at Moulmein. He concludes, however, that there are good sanitary reasons for allowing an ordinary laboring convict three dhootees, besides koortas, some jumpers, and blankets. Still, as by the Steamer "Arracan" the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Dr. Smith, proceeds to inspect the Hospitals at the Andamans, the Chief Commissioner desires you will submit the subject of clothing for that Officer's consideration, and report further accordingly.

No. 21, dated 9th December, 1864.

From— MAJOR B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 04232, dated 19th ultimo, in which, by the direction of the Chief Commissioner, and referring to my letter to your address No. 75 of 1st October last, on the subject of clothing, he desires that I will submit that subject to the consideration of the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Dr. Smith, on his visit here, and report further accordingly.

2. I now beg to say that I have laid the whole matter of convict clothing before Dr. Smith when recently here, and he authorizes me to say that he quite approves of my scale for clothing, and considers, for the reasons that I have already adduced, that they could not do with less.

3. I beg to add that, in submitting the scale already before the Chief Commissioner, I prepared it with every care and in consultation with the Medical Officer of this Settlement. You mention that the Chief Commissioner believes that my scale is in excess of what is allowed for transmarine convicts at Moulmein, on which I would beg respectfully to remark that, though my scale may be so, it must be borne in mind that the climate of Port Blair is a much more temporate one than that of Moulmein ; that there is a great deal more rain here than there, the fall being equal to that of Penang ; that we live in a much moister atmosphere, also causing considerable perspiration even in light exercise, and the works that convicts have to do here is undoubtedly of a rougher kind than any falling to labor of convicts in a town jail. These reasons I think will be sufficient to shew that wear and tear of clothes must be considerable, that a suit on a man and a dry suit to change with one more suit to issue when one of the first is worn out is not too much for a year's work.

4. The two blankets per man in so damp a climate, where it rains two-thirds of the year, are in the opinion of the Medical Officer, as well as myself, absolutely necessary, as is also the jumper for wear during the more inclement portions of the wet season, when the convicts are often much exposed.

No. 33, dated 9th February, 1865.

From—CAPTAIN G. E. FRYER, *Assistant Secy. to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, in forwarding you a copy of Home Secretary's No. 658 of 21st ultimo regarding clothing for the prisoners, to request your particular attention to the remarks therein contained.

You are requested to give the explanation called for in paragraph 2.

No. 658, dated 20th April, 1865.

From—A. P. HOWELL, Esq., *Offg. Under Secretary to Govt. of India, Home Department,*

To—*Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Secretary's letter No. 962A, dated the 29th ultimo, and in reply to inform you that the scale on which it is proposed to supply clothing to the convicts at Port Blair is approved by the Governor General in Council ; but it is understood that of the 3,323 convicts to whom clothing has been issued on this scale none can afford to pay for their own.

Materials for clothing for Police, and Crew of *Diana*, and Orderlies' Belts	Rs.	762	10	0
Value of Blankets in hand ...	"	6,156	2	0
Five per cent. contingencies ...	"	1,490	3	4

2. It is not clear why the three items noted on the margin are included in the "cost of issue for 1864 of Clothing and Blankets to Convicts (3,323) at Port Blair." An explanation on this point is requested.

3. The charge for clothing per man should be kept as low as possible consistently with ealth, and should be regularly budgetted for in future estimates.

No. 136, dated 7th April, 1865.

From—Major B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 33, enclosing copy of No. 658, from A. P. Howell, Esq., regarding clothing for prisoners, in which you are directed to request my particular attention to the remarks therein contained, and to give the explanation called for in your para 2.

2. I beg to state that, on referring to my letter No. 75 of 1st October last to Colonel Fytche, it would appear that the portion of the para.* in inverted commas quoted in the letter from A. P. Howell, Esquire, above referred to, is not extracted from my communication, but that from the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah's letter No. 962, of 29th December. If you will be good enough to refer to the statement of account which I furnished with the above letter, you will find that I solicited sanction for the disbursement of the sum of Rs. 29,804-15-1 for supplying three suits of clothing and two blankets to the convicts in this Settlement, which included materials for the clothing for Police and crew of the Settlement Steamer "Diana," to which, however, I stated should be added the cost of Hospital clothing, of blankets in hand, and 5 per cent. contingencies as shown in the margin.

* "Of issue for 1864 of clothing and blankets to convicts (3,323) at Port Blair."

Hospital Clothing	Rs. 1,947-5-3
Blankets in hand	„ 6,156-2-0
5 per cent. Contingencies	„ 1,490-3-11

With regard to the above charges, however, I beg to give the following further explanation. If you will be good enough to refer to para. 4 of my letter above-mentioned, you will observe that I therein mentioned that certain convicts have been dressed uniformly according to their occupation; this was in accordance with the instructions of Major General the Hon'ble Sir Robert Napier, K. C. B., on the occasion of his visit in October 1863, *vide* his Note on Port Blair Annexure, page 15, para 1, which arrangement was sanctioned in para. 12 of Government, Home Department, No. 2548 of 7th April 1864, reference to which will also be found in para. 4 of my letter No. 75, dated 1st October 1864, to the address of Colonel Fytche.

3. With regard to Hospital clothing, I found on arrival here that the same has been ordered by my predecessor in accordance with para. 2 of the annexure above quoted, the charge being against the Settlement in the Commissariat Department. I considered it advisable to include it in the total outlay for clothing chargeable to Government for the year; in like manner it was found that Rs. 1,156-2-0 worth of blankets remained on hand after the issue of two blankets to convicts all round, and these having been paid for by Government, I considered their cost debited to the Settlement, and that sanction was consequently needful to effect an adjustment with the Commissariat Department on account of the blankets being in hand.

4. Five per cent. contingencies was added to the account in case any charges for freight for the above clothing should be hereafter debited to the Settlement by the authorities at Calcutta.

5. Mr. Howell, in his letter above referred to states;—It is understood that of the "3,323 convicts to whom clothing has been issued on this scale, none can afford to pay "for their own," with regard to which I beg to state that, subsequent to the despatch of my letter No. 75 of 1st October last, I have deposited in the Treasury to the credit of Government Rs. 539-11-3 on account of clothing issued to men who, about or since the time of issue of clothing, became self-supporters, and were therefore required to pay for the same, and from whom such amount was recovered by instalments.

No. 82, dated 30th January, 1865.

From—Major B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to report, for the information of the Chief Commissioner, that I have been disappointed in receiving a supply of cloth for convict clothing which I had ordered from Madras and expected to receive by the last return trip hither of the Steamer "Arracan" to this Port. The material for this clothing was ordered to be similar to that of which a sample was, as you are aware, approved of by Government. The cotton supply in the vicinity of Madras is scarce, hence a delay of two or three months must take place before I can expect to receive a sufficient supply.

2. Under the above circumstances, therefore, I have the honor to solicit the Chief Commissioner's sanction to my making immediate purchase of materials sufficient to issue one suit of clothes all round to the laboring convicts on the Settlement as per enclosed estimate, and to my ordering material for the remaining issues of clothing for the year as recommended by the Senior Surgeon of this Settlement to myself and approved by the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Pegu Division, as reported in my letter to your address No. 21 of the 9th December 1864.

3. I submit the sample of the cloth which I can now at once procure in Moulmein; it is the stoutest and cheapest in the Burmah market, and cheaper than by my last enquiries I can get at Calcutta. I enclosed an estimate of the cost of purchase, and proposed, as the price of cloth has risen, and the weather being mild and dry, to issue to male convicts jungiahs instead of dhooties, by which in the present high state of the cotton market, a considerable saving will be effected to Government without any risk to the health of the convicts.

4. I propose that all clothing should be made up in the Settlement by laboring convicts, as many as can be spared, and the rest by self-supporters at three annas, two annas six pie, and two annas per diem for their labor, according to their proficiency; the remaining charge will be for needles and thread.

5. In conclusion, I beg to state that an item will be found in my Budget Estimate for the year 1865-66, for clothing for 8,000 convicts at Rs. 9-8 each per annum, amounting to Rs. 76,000.

Estimate.

Strength of the convicts on the 1st January 1865 ...		3,499			
Males	3,245				
Females	254				
Self-supporters to whom clothing is not provided ...	465				
Government having desired that 4,000 convicts be provided, and three arrivals of convicts having taking place since 1st January 1864, I take as datum for calculation ...	4,000				
and deduct for self-supporters	500				
Total remaining to be clothed ...		3,500			
Of the above, I calculate for males	3,209				
Ditto ditto for females	300				
To 3,500 koortas at 2 yards per koorta, at As. 3-4 per yard, 7,000 yards		1,458	5	0	
To 3,200 jungiahs at 1½ yards each, 4,800 yards, at As. 3-4 per yard		1,000	0	0	
To 300 sarees at 4 yards each, 1,200 yards, at As. 4-4 per yard ...		325	0	0	
To Convict Tailors for making, thread, needles, &c.		400	0	0	
5 per cent. contingencies for freight, &c.		109	2	0	
Total, Rs.		3 292	7	0	

No. 267, dated 11th July, 1864.

From—Surgeon Major D. T. Morton, M. D., F. R. C. S., *Senior Medical Officer, Port Blair,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor to bring to your notice that, having inspected the clothing supplied by the Alipore Jail for the use of the convicts in this Settlement, I am decidedly of opinion that, independently of the jackets being a great deal too small for the male prisoners, the cloth of which they are made is not at all adapted for this variable climate, the texture being too slight and not affording the warmth required,—the convicts being all employed in out-door work. I have therefore the honor to propose that clothing made of more substantial material be supplied to the prisoners, and of the kind of which I enclose a muster. I would also strongly recommend that the jackets be open in front, and so made as to fold double over the chest, with sleeves simply to the elbows for the working prisoners, but extending down to the wrist for the sick in hospital.

Extract from letter No. 23, dated 14th June 1864, from Offg. Supdt. of Port Blair, to Secretary to Government of India, Home Department.

" 5. The President in Council having directed that each man should be uniformly dressed " according to his occupation, I beg to report that the Harbour Master's division, all whose duties " are afloat, are clothed in a warmer " koorta" of serge supplied them: the " Diana's" crew " and the armed Police with blue American Drill uniforms, and a serge " koorta," for night " sentry work to the latter. To the Burmese I have issued their national " putzoe" of a " common description; a " dhoty" is most unsuitable to them. I request permission to " continue to give them putzoes, which cost but a little more than the other clothing."

List of Clothing, &c.

Samples of Cloth for Nos. 1 to 6, *viz.* :—

No. 1.—Punjum Cloth.
2.—Doosooty.
3.—Blue Drill.
4.—American Drill.
5.—Grey Cloth.
6.—Serge.

Suits, Dresses, &c., viz —

No. 1.—Policeman's Dress.
2.—Laboring Convict, female.
3.—Ditto ditto male.
4.—9th Division suit.
5.—Punishment suit.
6.—Hospital suit for females
7.—Ditto ditto for males.
8.—Bandsman's dress.
9.—Hospital Bedding complete.

Belts.

No. 1.—Bazar Peon's Belt.
2.—Division Gangsman's Belt.
3.—Sub-Division ditto.
4.—Hospital Jemadars.
5.—Hospital Toledars.
6.—Toledars.

No. 168, dated 14th May, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah

The undersigned, in acknowledging the receipt of the Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 406 of the 29th ultimo, has the honor to state that, as he is now preparing a detailed statement of the number of suits of clothing issued to convicts during the year 1866-67, which he hopes to forward by an early date, requests that he consequently may be permitted to defer the reply to the Memo. under acknowledgment.

No. 16, dated 14th May, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned requests the favor of being furnished with a copy of his abstract statement of clothing originally forwarded with his Memo. No. 45 of April 27th, which was returned corrected yesterday evening, and of which his office copy has unfortunately been mislaid.

No 560A, dated 13th May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to return the bundle of clothing to enable you to mark the number issued of each suit on the several slips of paper, to which also please attach your own initials.

Deducting those prisoners who died before they got three or even two suits during last year, also those who arrived late in the year and to whom the full complement of suits could not have been issued, the undersigned thinks there must be some mistake as to all the prisoners having each had three suits.

The undersigned supposes the amount, Rs. 42,047-13-9, shewn in your letter does not include "Hospital clothing and bedding," which is provided under Hospital Contingencies.

He requests the return of statement sent with your No. 45, of 27th April 1867.

No. 15, dated 14th May, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned begs to acknowledge Memo. No. 560 of 13th instant, from Chief Commissioner's Office, and in reply has the honor to state, that the number of each suit of clothing issued has been marked in the several slips of paper attached to the several samples which were returned yesterday evening.

2. Regarding para. 2, the undersigned is now preparing a detailed statement of issues, which will shew the number of suits issued to convicts during the last year; this will be forwarded by the next opportunity.

3. Referring to para 3, the undersigned begs to state that Hospital clothing and bedding, which are provided under "Hospital Contingencies," is not included in the amount of Rs. 42,047-13-9, shewn in the undersigned's letter No. 1142.

4. The corrected statement sent with the undersigned's No. 45 of 27th ultimo was returned yesterday evening.

No 558, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to point out the great delay that has occurred in your furnishing the samples of clothing and information called for in my No. 318, dated 17th April 1867. Unless I receive all that is required by 10 A M. on Monday, it will be necessary that you favor me with some explanation of the cause of delay.

No. 567, dated 13th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state with reference to your No. 142 of 9th instant (received yesterday), that I cannot accept the clothing accounts therein furnished as sufficient. Having inspected your clothing account in presence of Lieutenant Laughton, I find that the accounts of clothing supplied by the Commissariat Department, as produced in the vernacular by your head durzee, do not fully tally with Lieutenant Laughton's issue account ; but it is stated Lieutenant Laughton's account includes items issued for other purposes than clothing ; these should be severed as regards length and breadth. The Commissariat Officer, it appears, has no record to shew the quantities of cloth issued as regards length and width ; some means should be framed to check the issues from the Commissariat in these respects.

2. You certainly ought to have a book signed regularly by yourself to shew what supplies you receive from the Commissariat. This book should be a record of date of receipt and issue, quality and quantity of cloth, width, for what purpose required, and the price.

3 Then as regards the large supplies of cloth you purchase direct from Madras, Calcutta, Rangoon and other places,—the accounts of receipt and expenditure should be still more elaborate, the responsibility of these latter indents rests upon you as well as the seeing that the proper quantity is supplied, as also that it is received in good condition. You should insist upon the supplying merchants, European and Native, furnishing you with regular invoices and price lists, to enable you to check the quantities and prices. The matter at present rests too much in the hands of the head durzee; his accounts may be correct, and as the cloths are made up and served out under your own eye they probably are so, but in the absence of sufficient independent data, it will be very difficult to unravel the clothing accounts for the past years ; and I most earnestly request not a moment may be lost in taking stock of every article of cloth and other material now in store, and opening a complete set of books for the current year. When bales of cloth arrive in a damaged state a committee should inquire into the matter and record proceedings.

5. In conclusion, I feel myself necessitated to state that, with the indifferent clerks you have about your Office, it will be very difficult to frame a complete account, but as you state if time is given you can frame one from the invoices, the treasury drafts and the actual issues of clothing made to the prisoners, I know you will lose no time in setting about it.

6. It will be necessary that you clearly ascertain the quantity of the various sorts of cloth in hand on the 1st May, 1866, the quantity since received both through the Commissariat direct, and from other sources, and the cost thereof, how much has been used and to whom issued. Of course it will be necessary to have the several payments verified which go to swell the sum stated as expended in 1866-67 in your No. 142, and which amounts to Rs. 42,047-13-9. It will be necessary also to show clearly how the expenditure as worked out is arrived at. I trust that by the return Steamer you will be able to forward a revised and complete account to the Chief Commissioner, together with samples of each sort of clothing.

No. 568, dated 13th May, 1867.

Memo from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Sub-Assistant Commissary General, and to Assistant Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request you will be a Member of a Committee of which Lieut.-Colonel Ford is President, to compile an account of the expenditure of clothing for 1866-67, instructions regarding which under my signature will be laid before you by the President.

The Committee will assemble at Lieut.-Colonel Ford's Office to-morrow at 10 A. M., and will continue to assemble daily at such hour as the President may appoint until the duty is completed.

No. 576, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Assistant Superintendent and to Sub.-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

Colonel Ford having represented that he does not require the assistance of a Committee to enable him to frame the clothing account for the past year, but that he will call on you

to assist him if necessary, I beg you will consider my letter No. 568 of yesterday's date as in abeyance until further orders.

Copy to Colonel Ford for information.

No. 582, dated 15th May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by order of the Chief Commissioner, to acknowledge receipt of Memo. No. 168 of yesterday's date. The undersigned has no objection to deferring the Memo. on the convicts' clothing account as you propose. All the undersigned wishes is a correct return.

No. 512, dated 6th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES. *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that it has occurred to me that were a fire to happen in the Commissariat yard or the adjacent Engineer's yard, where a number of thatched buildings exist (a most dangerous practice) the whole of the Commissariat godowns would infallibly be destroyed; for, since the zinc godowns have been surrounded with wooden verandahs, they are no more impervious to fire than if they were built entirely of wood. The rum, the pitch, oil, &c., stowed here and there would create such a blaze that little or nothing would be saved. What then would you have to fall *back* upon; it is true you have some sheep, cattle, and pigs. There is also some rice stowed on Chatham Island. This latter is bad policy. The stores should be concentrated where the chief military strength lies, *viz.*, on Ross Island. I understand from the want of godown space, rice is also to be stowed in the hulk "Erin-go-bragh." This is a good arrangement as far as it goes, but I think, until better arrangements for protecting Commissariat stores against fire are made, there should be some separate depôt for a portion of the stores on Ross Island. I request your consideration of this matter.

No. 126 A., dated 9th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter No. 512, dated 6th instant, requesting my consideration as to whether there should be some separate depôt for a portion of the Commissariat stores on Ross Island, I have the honor to inform you, that I have referred this question to the Sub-Assistant Commissary General for his opinion, a copy of which I herewith enclose.

2. Lieut. Laughton states in his letter what he considers would be the best arrangement for the Commissariat buildings. This is a matter I long ago discussed with him, and Mr. Prince, late Executive Engineer, Port Blair, and on which we agreed; the difficulty now is to procure space for the Public Works Department elsewhere. Were the yard now occupied by the Executive Engineer to be removed, I know of no other place whatever for the proper accommodation of the Public Works Department except on the ground now occupied by Mr. Green's premises.

3. It is on this locality also, further south, that the only space for a separate reserve Commissariat depôt could be formed on Ross Island that I know of; but it would be unwise to place a depôt further south and thereby nearer to the convict lines.

4. It would not be impracticable either to erect one iron godown on the sea-shore east below Lieut. Cumming's quarters as a reserve store.

5. In conclusion, I beg to state that the occupation of a barrack for Commissariat stores on Chatham Island is only temporary, and until one of the godowns, now expected from England, will be erected.

No. 98, dated 9th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT. A. F. LAUGHTON, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

In reply to your Memo. No. 33, dated 7th May, requesting my opinion on the subject of Major Davies' letter No. 512, dated 6th May, regarding the danger of fire to the Commissariat buildings, I have the honor to inform you, that I consider the best precaution that could be taken would be to carry out Mr. Prince's original intention of making over the whole of the yard of the Department of Public Works to the Commissariat, providing space for it elsewhere. This would give room for the erection of my new godowns, and meanwhile I could remove all my packing cases and other inflammable articles into it, at a distance from my sheds.

2. A separate reserve depôt might also be provided for me at a short distance from my yard, though this would hardly be necessary as long as there is any grain kept at Chatham or in the hulk.

No. 521, dated 7th May, 1867

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

Considering the crowded state of Ross Island, I think a sharper look-out than at present exists should be kept over buildings erected of inflammable materials. I will merely point to the thatched building in the Executive Engineer's yard, in close proximity to the Commissariat godowns; also to the accumulation of thatched old houses attached to your head clerk's house, and in several instances to the additions made to self-supporters' huts, as a proof that this subject does not receive sufficient attention. Though this is not a Cantonment, in view of the scantiness of space, and the value of the place, I think the Executive Engineer should have depicted on a map every erection on the Island, and no addition should have been allowed without your written sanction, after inspection of the place, &c., and every future addition should be depicted on the map in the Executive Engineer's Office, with a description of the class of building allowed to be put up.

The Executive Engineer will be responsible that the specification was adhered to.

No. 27 E. E., dated 7th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To— Executive Engineer, Port Blair.

I have the honor to forward enclosed copy of a letter to my address, No. 521, dated 7th instant, from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

2. I beg to invite your attention to his remarks on the subject of the close proximity of thatched buildings in your yard to the Commissariat godowns, and to request you will make such arrangements in connection therewith, as will prevent the possibility of their causing danger to the stores of that Department, and that you will report to me, for the Chief Commissioner's information, what you have done in the matter.

3. I desire also to draw your attention to the concluding portion of para. 1 of Major Davies' communication, in which he is of opinion that you should have depicted on a map every erection on the Island, and that you will observe that no addition should be made thereto without a written sanction from me, after the inspection of the place, &c., and such maps should be in your Office with a description of the class of buildings allowed to be put up.

4. With reference to the concluding paragraph of Major Davies' letter, I beg to inform you that I shall consider you the responsible Officer for seeing that the specification of any buildings erected by my written sanction be adhered to.

No. 116, dated 8th May, 1867.

Memo. by Superintendent, Port Blair.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, for his information.

No. 123, dated 8th May, 1867.

Memo. by Superintendent, Port Blair.

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, for his information, with reference to his letter No. 521, and in continuation of this Office Memo. No. 116 of this day's date.

No. 64, dated 8th May, 1867.

From—Lieut. W. G. Cumming, R. E., *Executive Engineer, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 27 E E. of yesterday's date, together with copy of letter No. 521 from Major Davies, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, to your address, both with reference to the close proximity of thatched buildings in the Public Works Department yard to the Commissariat godowns.

In reply, I beg to state that the thatched buildings in my yard are most of them used as store-houses, within which no fire is allowed to be taken, and from these I apprehend little or no danger to the Commissariat godown in the vicinity. The blacksmith's shop is the only place from which any danger from fire may be feared; the building, although thatched, is protected from fire to a certain extent by a lining of fire-proof material under the roof.

I will however closely re-examine the sheds, and see that every precaution is taken against any chance of a fire breaking out within it.

2. With regard to the 3rd paragraph of your letter in connection with the concluding paragraph of Major Davies' communication mentioned above, I beg to state that I have other more important matters to attend to than to depict on a map every addition of

temporary huts; &c., which may be erected by the Settlement authorities from time to time, with or without my knowledge. When, however, any such temporary inflammable structures are being erected in the vicinity of permanent or semi-permanent buildings, it is my duty to point out the danger of such like constructions, and recommend their removal to other more distant sites. I beg further to state that, in every case when temporary buildings have been constructed by me (except in the case of sheds, &c., on the sites of buildings in progress) I have consulted with you as to the advisability or otherwise of such sites being used for the purposes required.

3. With reference to para. 4 of your letter under consideration, in which you state as follows:— "I beg to inform you that I shall consider you the responsible Officer for seeing that the specifications of any buildings erected by my written sanction be adhered to," I beg to state that I am at a loss to comprehend the precise meaning of the para. above quoted, for it is a rule of the Public Works Department that sanctioned plans and estimates (which include all necessary specifications) must be strictly adhered to in constructing any building whatsoever, the cost of which exceeds Rs. 50, and I am personally responsible to my immediate superiors for any infringement of this rule. I cannot be responsible, however, that specifications of any buildings erected by your written sanction will be adhered to, unless those buildings are being constructed by the Public Works Department.

No. 537, dated 8th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, with reference to my No. 521, dated 7th May, to earnestly request your attention to the danger of having thatched sheds within the Commissariat yard, or in the Engineer's yard, which adjoins it.

2. There is now a dilapidated shed in the south-western corner of the Commissariat yard, the use of which is not apparent; moreover, the Commissariat yard is lumbered with boxes and packing cases. Cannot they be stowed away elsewhere, even if you have to send them to Aberdeen?

3. Opposite Mr. Green's compound are buildings on the sea-shore, beyond high water mark, and a large quantity of iron rails; as these are evidently less inflammable than the thatched shed which contains the forge in the Engineer's yard, could not this space be made available for a shed to cover the forge, and have the rails put in the present yard?

4. I have satisfied myself there is space along the sea-shore opposite Mr. Green's to put up not only sheds for the forge and lime, but also for sawing operations, which would be even more convenient than the present one very near the landing place.

5. I would suggest that only the shed where the forge now is on the side furthest from the Commissariat yard be allowed to remain in the Engineer's yard, and that temporary sheds for forge, lime, and saw pit be erected on the beach, and the present yard cleared of all thatched buildings, except the one mentioned, which could contain all the tools.

No. 128, dated 9th May, 1867.

Memo. by Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

No. 34 of the 8th May to the S. A. C. General and No. 28 of the 8th to the Executive Engineer, from the Superintendent of Port Blair.

Copies of correspondence as per margin forwarded to Major H. N. Davies, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, with reference to his letter No. 537, of the 8th instant.

No. 34, dated 8th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.*

I have the honor to forward enclosed copy of a letter to my address, from Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, who earnestly requests my attention to the danger of having thatched sheds either in the Commissarait or Engineer's yards.

2. You will observe that Major Davies, in para. 2, notices a dilapidated shed in the south-western corner of the Commissariat yard, which, unless you have any urgent necessity for, I request it may be removed as soon as possible.

3. The empty boxes and packing cases, Major Davies suggests should be stowed away out of the Commissariat yard, even if it be necessary to send them to Aberdeen. I request you will make safe arrangements for their being stowed elsewhere as soon as ever you can do so.

No. 28, dated 8th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

To—*Executive Engineer, Port Blair.*

I have the honor to forward, enclosed, copy of a letter to my address, from Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, who earnestly requests my attention to the danger of having thatched sheds either in the Commissariat or Engineer's yards.

2. In para. 3 of Major Davies' letter, he makes suggestions that your forges should be removed to the sea-shore, so as to remove to a further distance the risk of fire to the Commissariat godown ; he also suggests in para 4, that the shed for lime and sawing shed also be removed to the beach opposite Mr. Green's premises ; and in his para. 5 he suggests that only one shed be allowed in which to stow all tools, &c., and the present yard including saw-pit be cleared of all thatched buildings.

3. In view to the Chief Commissioner's direction, as contained in Major Davies' letter, in which I entirely concur, I have to direct that you give effect to the same with all expedition practicable.

No. 363, dated 24th April, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor to state I this day visited the Commissariat godowns in company with the Sub-Assistant Commissary General.

2. I was very much struck with the absence of good arrangements and confusion which generally prevailed in the storing of goods in the godown. I do not mean by this assertion to attribute blame to Lieut. Laughton ; on the contrary, I think he does the best he can with the means at his disposal ; but the accommodation is so scant, and the godowns for the most part in such a dilapidated state, that no Commissariat Officer has fair play, for the insecurity of some of the godowns is so very great that any amount of pilfering might go on, under the present system, for no regular account is kept of the quantity of supplies received.

3. The casks of sugar are stored away in a dark godown in such a way that it is impossible to ascertain what leakage is going on ; many casks I observed leaking, and Lieut. Laughton states he endeavours to save as much as he can by putting it in iron tanks, but he has not sufficient. The loss to Government is very great in sugar or rather goor.

4. There are lots of old tin, ghee, and other casks ; could not a light wooden frame, capable of holding a ton or two, be made and lined with those old tins well soldered, and when a cask is seen to leak have its contents tumbled into this improvised vat, and serve out this rescued stuff first ?

5. Five of the casks I saw this morning have been leaky, I should say, for weeks ; the ground was saturated with saccarine water. Lieut. Laughton has, I understand, addressed you regarding procuring a cheaper sort of sugar. I should like to see the letters.

6. Far too great a supply of perishable articles is kept in store. I should say two months' supply of sugar would be ample. Rice, wheat, ghee, and such necessaries are different, but even for these, I suspect a six months' supply is beyond the mark.

7. Lieut. Laughton has some sevenths* rum in store ; the casks are not on trassels, and they are too close together for ventilation and inspection ; in fact, there is not sufficient storage room, yet only a few days ago, you forwarded me an emergent requisition† for freight, for a further supply from Messrs. Gardner, Brooke and Co., of Maulmain. I regret to say that, under the impression that the supply was short, I forwarded this on to the Chief Commissioner, but where the necessity for hurry was I am unable to perceive.

†1,538 gallons—Lieut. Laughton's memo. No. 138, dated 13th Apl. 1867.

8. Regarding the reduction of supplies for store, I request you will, in consultation with Lieut. Laughton, favor me with a list of what stores should be kept in hand six, four, and three months. A supply of nothing but what is absolutely necessary being prepared three months.

9. I desire to know what becomes of all the packing cases and gunny bags.

No. 35, dated 26th April, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 363 of the 24th instant, written consequent on your visit to the Commissariat godown in company with the Sub-Assistant Commissary General.

2. Referring to para. 2 of your letter, I beg to inform you that I personally consulted Lieut. Laughton on the subject. With regard to what you state about the confusion and absence of good arrangements, I consider it due to that Officer to state that, of my own knowledge, I know that since he has been in charge of the Commissariat Department of the station, he has entirely verified his stock, and has all stores in his charge so arranged that he has everything at hand that is required, in view of the scanty accommodation, which you yourself admit that he has. I think therefore that, with the means at his disposal, it is very creditable to him to have got matters so well arranged.

With reference to your remark as to the insecurity of some of the godowns being so great that any amount of pilfering might go on under the present system, no regular account being kept of the quantities of stores received, Lieut. Laughton informs me that he has a regular account of all supplies received, the quantities thereof being recorded as invoiced. Lieut. Laughton states that it is impossible for him, on the arrival of every ship, at once to weigh, for instance, rice bags, because he has neither time, space, nor establishment to go through so accurate a check, though, were he able to do so, there can be no

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* Sic. in Orig.—P. D.

doubt that he could largely reduce his monthly wastage returns, for much is lost in shipment in Calcutta, on the voyage, and in discharging into boats and conveying to shore, from thence again to the godowns on delivery at Port Blair. Such a wastage, it may be remarked, would be written off on what is termed a "road wastage" report, and would not, as it now is under present and uncontrollable circumstances, be debitable under head "wastage in stores." As regards pilfering, Lieut. Laughton is of opinion that any losses which he may so sustain are little or nothing, proper precautions being taken by the provision of sufficient guards, free and convict police, when the godowns are closed, and due supervision over issues when they are opened.

3. With regard to the great loss to the Government in sugar or rather goor which you consider takes place, Lieut. Laughton states with regard to leakage of goor casks, that such loss has only occurred on supplies more recently received from Calcutta, the goor being in a more liquid state than it was ever received before. The goor in this condition and in this climate ferments, and strains and bursts the casks, and this may occur even during one night with a cask that up to the closing of the godown appeared sound.

4. Your suggestion as regards the improvised vat to save leakage from goor casks, I have communicated to Lieut. Laughton, and have requested him to serve out such rescued stuff first.

5. I am at present in correspondence with Lieut. Laughton on the subject of the supply of sugar for this Settlement. It is proposed to supply sugar-cane goor in substitution of the sugar at present supplied and of date goor; this in the one case will save wastage in that of goor, and in the other the providing of a more inexpensive article. I shall furnish you with the correspondence in due course.

6. With reference to your remark that far too great a supply of some perishable articles is kept in store, I beg to inform you that I have, in consultation with Lieut. Laughton, considered the proposal you make, and I am of opinion that it will be needless to keep up more than three months' reserve stock of any of the articles you name, provided the Commissariat Officer be kept supplied with a running stock of from one to two months' supply for immediate use.

7. The manner in which the rum is stored is rendered absolutely necessary for the want of sufficient accommodation to store it in a less crowded manner. The reason for the requisition for freight for the conveyance of rum ordered from Messrs. Gardner, Brooke and Co., Moulmein, was, that this order had been given a long time ago, and that firm had been given to understand that they would have obtained freight for its conveyance ere this, and further detention would render the Government liable to those gentlemen for godown rent. You will, doubtless, therefore perceive that there was a necessity for applying for this freight.

8. Regarding para. 8 of your letter, it will be observed, on referring to what I have said on your para. 16, that it will not be necessary now to furnish you with a list of stores to be kept in hand.

9. Packing cases are converted into convicts' barrack boxes, and gunny bags in the making of hospital and barrack bedding; any found unduly accommodated are returned to Calcutta.

No. 581, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to state that, in sending you the accompanying demi-official notes and plan of the Commissariat godowns received from Lieut. Laughton, I can only impress on you the urgent and immediate necessity for making room for the new Commissariat godowns, and as the Executive Engineer's yard will eventually be moved off Ross, I consider it very advisable that, if necessary, the space now occupied with the lime sheds, saw pits, and tool yard if the road should be moved forthwith to the spot I have already indicated in a former letter, and the yard made available for Commissariat purposes. It might be necessary to pull-down a few self-supporters' huts to give more river frontage for the Executive Engineer's requirements; if this should be done at once, and the people compensated with another site and with assistance and leave and labor gratis, I have already pointed out.*

No. 350, dated 23rd April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request you will favor him with a return of coin estimated to have been brought and taken out of the Port Blair Settlement for each year since its occupation as a Penal Settlement, in the annexed form.

The undersigned would also be obliged by your stating your opinion as to the total amount of money that may be in this Settlement at the present moment.

* Sic in Orig.—P. D.

Return of Coins estimated to have been brought and taken out of the Port Blair Settlement for each year since its occupancy as a Penal Settlement.

Years.	Amount received on account of Government	Amount received on account of Government in Copper Coins, exclusive of Andaman Tokens.	Number of Andaman Tokens received in cash representing one rupee	Estimated amount of Coins of all descriptions brought into Settlement by private parties, value shown in Rs.	Total amount remitted by Government Servants and Convicts to persons out of the Settlement in cash.		Remittances received by parties (if any) from their friends in Cash or in Notes or Drafts.		Total amount remitted by Government Servants and Free residents and by Convicts to persons out of the Settlement by Hoondees or Draft		REMARKS
					By Government Servants and by Free Settlers.	By Convicts.	By Rupees	By Notes or Hoondees	By Government servants and by Free Settlers.	By Convicts.	

No 451, dated 2nd May, 1867.

Memo from—MAJOR H N DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request you will submit a Memo. showing, exclusive of regular pay of establishments, and regular pay of free artizans which are paid in silver, and of all prisoners' pay which is paid in tokens, what articles are required to be paid for in cash in this Settlement.

Also please state what the pay of troops and establishments, which are now paid in silver, amount to monthly.

No. 470, dated 3rd May, 1867.

Memo from—MAJOR H N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair

The undersigned has the honor, with reference to your letter No. 58 of this day's date, on the subject of copper tokens, now to invite your attention to this Office letter No. 350, dated 23rd April last, calling for a return of coin estimated to have been brought and taken out of this Settlement for each year since its occupation.

No 175, dated 14th May, 1867

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To— Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah

The undersigned has the honor to forward enclosed return called for in Memo. No 350 of the 23rd ultimo.

With reference to para. 2 of above Memo, the undersigned begs to state that in his opinion the amount of money in the Settlement at this present moment is probably Rs. 67,944. but of this he cannot be sure, as the estimate is formed on data that is imperfect, but is the best that can be arrived at.

Return of Coins estimated to have been brought and taken out of the Port Blair Settlement for each year, since its occupancy as a Penal Settlement.

Years.	Amount received on account of Government.	Amount received on account of Government in Copper Coins, exclusive of Andaman Tokens.	Number of Andaman Tokens received in Cash representing one Rupee.	Estimated amount of Coins of all descriptions brought into Settlement by private party; value shown in Rupees.	Total amount remitted by Government Servants and Convicts to persons out of the Settlement in Cash.		Remittances received by parties (if any) from their friends in Cash or in Notes or Drafts.		Total amount remitted by Government Servants and Free residents and by Convicts to persons out of the Settlement by Hoondees or Drafts.		Remarks.
					By Government Servants and by Free Settlers.	By Convicts.	By Rupees.	By Notes or Hoondees.	By Government Servants and Free Settlers.	By Convicts.	
1858 ...	.....	.....	.....	There are no records in this Office from which any reliable data under this head can be given.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	.....	.....	.....	No proper record exists in this Office.
1859 ...	.....	.....	.....					.....	.....	.....	Ditto.
1860 ...	.....	.....	.....					.....	.....	.....	Ditto.
1861 ...	1,00,000	.....	20,000					.....	.....	.....	
1862 ...	.....	.....	.....					703	49,842	875	
1863 ...	72,000	3,000	.....					11,161	88,842	5,477	
1864 ...	1,00,000	.....	.....					47,170	69,509	17,154	
1865 ...	1,00,999	.....	.....					26,091	99,129	14,030	
1866 ...	1,20,000	.....	20,800					67,848	66,222	66,311	
1867 ...	21,000	5,000	.....					22,101	46,780	7,265	
Total ...	5,13,999	8,000	40,800					1,75,074	4,20,324	1,11,112	

No. 462, dated 3rd May, 1867

Memo. from—MAJOR H N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to enquire whether it would not be as well to have the condensing machine thatched in, as there is some very delicate machinery attached to it, which is liable to rust, if exposed to the sea air as it is at present.

No. 86, dated 3rd May, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Memo. No. 462 of this day's date, recommending that the condensing machine be thatched in.

2. The Harbour Master, who has charge of the machinery, has been already directed to envelope the same in tarpaulin, when it was proposed to put a light "chupper" over it.

3 Your suggestions have been conveyed to him with directions that he will carry out the same.

No. 416, dated 9th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will favor me with a return in the subjoined form, showing the total number of male prisoners of every class received in each year from 1858 to 1867 inclusive, how they were disposed of, and the number remaining on this date.

What number of Convicts received each year since the establishment of the Settlement, and disposition of the same for each year.

Year.	Number of Prisoners received	Released.	Transferred to other Jails.	Escaped.	Died.	Executed.	Committed suicide.	Remaining at the close of each year except for 1867.	REMARKS
1858									The number shown as remaining in col. 9 for 1867 will be for 29th April of thatyear.

No. 98, dated, 4th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No 416 of the 29th ultimo, calling upon me, by the direction of the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, to furnish a return shewing the number of convicts received at Port Blair and their disposition, since the establishment of the Settlement. I have the honor to attach herewith the statement therein called for.

Total number of Convicts received each year since the establishment of the Settlement, and the disposition of the same for each year.

Year.	Number of Prisoners received.	Number released	Number transferred to other Jails.	NUMBER ESCAPED.			Died.	Number executed.	Committed suicide.	Total remaining.	REMARKS
				Total Escaped.	Total Re-captured.	Total Remaining.					
1858	1949	6	...	307	129	178	333	87	1	1344	
1859	1816	49	9	327	169	158	1124	4	3	1813	
1860	733	22	3	82	39	43	272	...	1	2205	
1861	832	866	16	66	45	21	295	...	...	1839	
1862	1076	130	4	109	65	44	324	...	...	2413	
1863	1737	106	7	357	210	147	670	...	5	3215	
1864	961	87	2	202	113	89	481	1	1	3515	
1865	2267	98	64	135	105	30	269	2	4	5315	
1866	2251	48	87	233	164	69	673	...	3	6686	
1867	774	11	16	88	50	38	172	...	1	7222	

No. 319, dated 18th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to forward herewith a form of return, with a request that you will be good enough to fill in one for each station, and return the same at your earliest convenience. Under the head "Number of Deaths" in the form, is to be included those convicts who died from the effects of disease acquired at the particular stations reported, as well as those who actually died on the said stations.

Return of average number of Male Convicts employed in the Settlement of ———— for the years below specified, number of deaths, and ratio of deaths to strength.

This Settlement was first occupied on the————

Year.	Average Annual Strength		No. of Deaths.		Ratio of Deaths to Strength.		Remarks.
	Self-Supporters.	Convicts.	Self-Supporters.	Convicts.	Self-Supporters.	Convicts.	

No. 16, dated 20th April, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned, in acknowledging the receipt of your Memo. No. 319, of the 18th instant, on the subject of a Return of Deaths, &c, begs to be informed for what particular year or years the information is required, as in the form therewith attached, it is written "year" in the column, and years in the heading.

No. 330, dated 20th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge your Memo. No. 16, and to state that the return called for in his No. 319 is required to be filled in for each year, for each station separately, commencing (as noted in the head of the Form) from the date of occupation of each particular station. The year should be the calendar year.

No. 517, dated 6th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that, on Friday morning, I visited the barracks where the European prisoners are located; though it was about 7 o'clock, I found some of them in bed, some dressing,—none had apparently any morning employment. I request you will send me a return in the following form :—

Return of European Prisoners on Ross Island on 1st May 1867.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Name	Crime.	Sentence.	Present age.	Date of arrival at Port Blair.	How much of sentence remains unexpired.	Monthly rate of prisoners' subsistence allowance.	Monthly rate of any extra allowance received for works as overseers, clerks, &c.	Present employment.	Whether under license or what.	Married or single.	Remarks.

In sending this return, I request you will be good enough to report whether these men cannot be turned to better account than they are at present. Some I understand are employed as clerks, some appear to have no employment, and all seem to live pretty well at their ease. I think such a state of things is liable to prove an injurious example to the European soldiery, and the removal of the European prisoners from Ross may be advantageous.

No. 129, dated 9th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 517 of the 6th instant, and in reply beg to forward the return that you called for as per form supplied.

2. In reply to para. 2 of your letter, I beg to state that I do not think the Christian prisoners can be turned to better account than the employment which I show against their respective names, each man having an occupation such as by my experience of his qualifications and abilities, I consider him most suited for ; there are none without employment. The work of some begins early, *i. e.*, those who have out-door employment, while those who are employed in Offices do not commence their day's work until those Offices open.

3. Many of the European prisoners are employed at the outposts, as you will observe from return* enclosed with this Office letter No. 126 of this day's date.

* Copy attached.

List of Christian Prisoners employed at the Out-Stations of the Settlement.

NAMES.	STATIONS ON WHICH THEY ARE EMPLOYED.	NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT.	REMARKS.
G. Scott	Aberdeen	Station Overseer.	
J. Freeman	Ditto	Overseer, P. W. D.	
—Suttow	Ditto	Assistant Station Overseer.	
W. Johnson	Ditto	Superintending Cotton cultivation.	
J. Murray	Ditto	Brick Manufactory, P. W. D.	
W. Douglas	Haddo	Overseer, P. W. D.	
J. Winter	Ditto	Assistant Ditto, P. W. D.	
J. Michael	Chatham	Clerk, Superintendent of Police.	
C. Alexander	Ditto	Assistant Engineer, Saw Mill.	
W. Hawkins	Viper	Station Overseer.	
W. Ham	Ditto	Assistant Overseer.	
R S. D'Silva	Ditto	Under punishment.	
W Fernandez	Mount Harriet	Station Overseer.	
R. D'Voz	Perseverance Point	Station Overseer.	
J. V. Briesly	Hope Town	Medical Department.	
A. B. Lord	Navy Point	Assistant Station Overseer.	
St. J Gregory	Port Mouat	Settlement Fisherman.	

A.

Return of European Prisoners on Ross Island, on the 5th May 1867.

Name.	Crime.	Sentence.	Present Age.	Date of arrival at Port Blair.	How much of sentence remains unexpired. Y.	M.	D.	Monthly rate of prison subsistence allowance.	Monthly rate of any extra allowance received for work as Overseers, Clerks, &c.	Present Employment.	Whether under license or what?	Married or Single.	Remarks.
T. Nolan	Murder, and Prison Breach ..	10 Years P. S. ...	30	16th April 1865	4	1	10	30	20	Overseer, P. W. Dept. ...	Licensed	Single.	
J Bluett	Giving False Evidence	4 Years ditto ...	35	14th Novr. 1865	6	1	8	30	20	Clerk, Supdt's Office ...	Do.	Married.	
M. Murphy ...	Murder	Life	43	29th Octr. 1865	Life.			30	15	Supdg. works, P. W. D....	Do	Single.	
C. E. Ross... ...	Forgery	6 Years P. S. ...	32	29th Octr. 1865	0	7	2	30	20	Clerk, Supdt's Office ...	Do.	Do.	
A. E. D'Cruz ...	Uttering a Forged Document ..	10 Yrs. Transportation.	30	1st Feby. 1862	4	7	5	30	20	Ditto ...	Do.	Do.	
L. J. Newbond ...	Culpable Homicide not amounting to murder.	14 Years ditto ...	26	29th Octr. 1865	10	5	3	12	13	Head Printer, Superintendent's Office ...	not Licensed	Do.	
J. Lambart ...	Manslaughter	14 Years ditto ..	35	27th Jany. 1862	8	7	18	12	18	Settlement Glazier ...	Do.	Married	
J. Mitchell ...	Affray with Murder	Life ditto ...	35	26th Octr. 1862	Life.			12	18	Court Clerk ...	Do.	Single.	
C. Burgess... ...	Voluntarily causing grievous hurt	7 Years ditto ..	26	26th Octr. 1862	2	2	11.	12	14	Settlement Painter ...	Do.	Do.	
A. Gubboy ...	Theft in a shop	7 Years ditto ...	22	26th Octr. 1862	2	0	29	12	2	Conservancy Dept. ...	Do.	Married.	
M. Arratoon ...	Breaking in a house and stealing, Larceny.	7 Years ditto ...	41	15th Novr. 1862	1	5	29	12	18	Overseer, 10th Division...	Do.	Single.	
D. George	Theft in a Building	10 Years ditto ...	25	21st April 1866	8	5	1	12	0	Asst. Scl. Master Asc. Scl	Do.	Married.	
J. Alkena	Voluntarily causing Grievous Hurt	6 Years ditto ...	26	15th April 1867	4	1	15	12	8	Carpenter, Marine Dept. .	Do.	Single.	
F. Rodrigues ...	Culpable Homicide not amounting to Murder.	7 Years ditto ...	25	21st April 1866	5	7	1	12	0	Making Bedding for convicts.	Do.	Married.	
B. Falgado... ...	Ditto.	7 Years ...	29	21st April 1865	5	7	1	12	0	Ditto ...	Do.	Do.	

No. 351, dated 23rd April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request you will have the goodness to furnish him with a return showing the number of convicts, European, Eurasian, and Native, receiving upwards of Rs. 8 a month on the 23rd April 1867, at the several Settlements of Port Blair.

No. 31, dated 25th April, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 351 of the 23rd instant, and in reply begs to forward the Statement therein called for.

No. 475, dated 4th May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request you will furnish him with a nominal roll of prisoners sent from this to Viper in 1866, showing how long each man stayed in Ross; note those that were admitted into Hospital or to the convalescent gang at Viper, and the date; also the date any of them may have died.

The return of those sent to Viper before 1st January 1866 is not wanted nor of those sent from stations other than Ross.

No. 166, dated 14th May, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COL. B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor, in compliance with the Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 475 of the 4th idem, to forward herewith a nominal roll of the convicts sent from Ross to Viper Island in 1866, with all other information therein required.

No. 480, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 89 of yesterday's date, on the subject of a map applied for by me, and I am directed to state that I have since been supplied with a map by Lieut. Cumming, which answers the purpose.

2. I shall be glad if you will furnish me with a return in the following form :—

Return showing the length of time laboring male prisoners, now on Ross Island, have been stationed on Ross Island, including every class, except sick, self-supporters, and gangsmen.

Department in which employed.	No. who have been more than three months on Ross Island.	Between three and six months on Ross Island.	Between six and nine months on Ross Island.	Between nine and twelve months on Ross Island.	REMARKS.

No. 149, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

With reference to para. 2 of your letter No. 480, dated 4th May 1867, I have the honor to forward attached a return showing the length of time laboring male convicts now on Ross Island have been stationed thereon, including every class, except sick, self-supporters, and gangsmen according to form supplied.

Return shewing the length of time laboring Male Convicts now on Ross Island have been stationed on Ross Island, including every class except sick, self-supporters, and gangsmen.

Department in which employed.	Number who have been less than three months on Ross Island.	Between three and six months on Ross Island.	Between six and nine months on Ross Island.	Between nine and 12 months on Ross Island.	REMARKS.
Engineer's Department	306	24	38	30	
Commissariat Department	10	0	1	7	
Marine Department....	29	16	38	25	
Settlement	282	51	53	69	
Private Servants ...	10	12	11	34	
Total ...	637	103	141	165	

No. 358, dated 24th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to state that, in visiting the several stations of Port Blair Settlement, the copper deckchees appeared to be in a very bad state ; some of them appeared not to have been tinned for six months or more. He requests to know how many of these are in use, and what arrangements are made for tinning them, and what is the total cost of those now in use?

No. 119, dated 8th May, 1867

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 358 of the 24th ultimo, and in reply begs to forward the information required on the subject of copper deckchees.

2. In answer to the request to know what arrangements are made for tinning them, the undersigned has to state that the Executive Commissariat Officer has a tin-smith, whose duty it is to tin all copper pots sent to that Department for tinning by Medical Officers, and that a self-supporting tin-man is set up in the bazaar at Ross Island, where deckchees in Settlement use can be tinned. Mr. Homfray has also a tinner at Port Mouat.

Statement shewing the number, weight, and value of Deckchies (Government property) in use in the Settlement of Port Blair.

Stations.	No. of Deck-chies.	Weight.		Value at 0-12-9 per lb.			REMARKS.
		lbs.	oz.	Rs.	As.	P.	
Port Mouat	21	310	0	262	6	0	
Viper	15	489	2	389	12	5½	
Navy Bay Point	1	44	0	34	8	8	
Marine Department...	29	228	8	182	1	4½	
Paper Manufactory	1	35	0	27	13	5	
Hospital, Ross Island	8	217	12	173	8	3¾	
" Chatham	10	269	0	214	5	4	
" Viper	9	220	0	175	5	0	
" Port Mouat	7	129	2	102	14	5½	

No. 361, dated 24th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Senior Medical Officer, and President of Sanitary Committee, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to invite the attention of your Committee to the question of supplying copper deckchies to prisoners. In the course of my inspection I have found many quite unfit for use by reason of their not having been tinned for months.

Dated 10th April, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to acknowledge your letters Nos. 87 of 4th September 1866 and 213 of 4th March 1867, reporting on the condition of, and repairs required by, the Steamer "Diana." Considering the extensive repairs, costing Rs. 17,723, this vessel underwent previous to her being made over to Port Blair in 186 , and the dilapidated condition her hull and boilers appear to be now in, the Chief Commissioner considers it very doubtful whether she is worth spending Rs. 5,000 on, merely to keep her going for a short time. Under these circumstances, and with reference to the Chief Commissioner's letter to you, Nos. of 1st April 1867 and 307 of 6th April 1867, I have been directed to report on the subject, and to enable me to do so, the services of Mr. Dodd, Master Attendant of Moulmein, have been placed at my disposal. I have accordingly formed a Committee composed of Mr. Dodd as President, the Commander of the "Zurich," and the Chief Engineer of the "Arracan" as members, to thoroughly overhaul and report to me, whether they consider the "Diana" worth repairing, if so, the probable cost, and whether she should be repaired at Port Blair, or if she be in a fit state to make so long a trip at this season of the year to Calcutta or Rangoon.

I shall be obliged by your issuing instructions to the Commander and the Engineer of the "Diana" to give every information and assistance to the Committee when they hold the survey.

Dated 10th April, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Commander H. M. Steamer "Arracan."

I have the honor to request you will be good enough to afford Mr. Dodd the aid of the services of your Chief Engineer, Mr. Wood, in surveying the "Diana" and drawing up a memorandum of the probable cost of repairing her, should it be deemed advisable to have her repaired.

Dated 10th April, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Master Attendant, Moulmein.

From Lt. Col. Ford, to Secretary, Chief Commissioner, dated 10th September 1866, with enclosures A, B, and C.

No. 213, from ditto to ditto dated 11th March 1867, with enclosure D.

I have the honor to forward in original letters as per margin, reporting on the condition of, and repairs required to, the "Diana" at Port Blair. The Chief Commissioner has directed that you be President of a Committee composed of the Commander of the "Zurich" and Chief Engineer of the "Arracan" to survey and report to me whether the "Diana" is worth repairing, if so, at what probable cost, and, considering the season of the year, where she should be sent for repairs, if they cannot be effected at Port Blair. After arranging with the Members of your Committee you should give timely intimation to the Commander of the "Diana" of the date when the survey will be held.

Dated 10th April, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Commander "Zurich."

I have the honor to request you will be good enough to officiate as Member of a Committee of which the Master Attendant of Moulmein is President, to survey and report on the Government Steamer "Diana," as to whether she is worth repairing, if so, the probable cost, and whether the repairs could be best done at Port Blair, or if not, whether, considering her condition and the season of the year, it would be possible to send her to Calcutta or Rangoon. You will be entitled to the usual fee of two gold mohurs (Rs. 32), which will be paid through the Master Attendant of Rangoon.

No. 485, dated 17th April, 1867.

From—R. J. DODD, ESQ., *Master Attendant, Moulmein,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to forward herewith the Survey Report on H. M's Ship "Diana," called for in your letter No. 308, dated 10th instant.

The enclosures to your letter are also returned.

Dated 16th April, 1867.

Survey Report by A. J. DODD, ESQ., *President, Master Attendant, Moulmein*; R. WOOD, ESQ., *1st Class Engineer, H. M.'s Steamer "Arracan;" and* J. GRANGE, ESQ., *Master, Ship "Zurich," on H. M.'s Steamer "Diana" at Port Blair.*

In accordance with the instructions contained in the Secretary to Chief Commissioner's letter No. 308, we have this day proceeded on board to survey and report upon the present

state and condition of the Settlement Steamer "Diana" as she now lies on shore off Haddo, and have to report as follows:—

Hull.—The shew and general appearance outside, above the bilge, appears in fair order, and the deck and fittings are also in good condition; but the Commander reports that the covering boards and waterways are defective; this, however, we are without the means to inspect. The inside of the frames and outer-plating above the bilges appear generally in good condition. The bottom plating from the keel to the bilge plates, inclusive, are very defective and worn through in many places, more especially in the engine-room and coal bunkers. The sides of the coal bunkers are also defective, and the keel plate, fore and aft, is very defective and much worn.

Masts and Rigging, &c.—The foremast requires hooping and a new main topmast is wanted; the rigging, fore and aft, must be renewed, and the boat's davits require rewelding. The funnel also needs repairing.

Machinery.—With regard to the engines there is nothing material defective; they require, however, a general overhaul.

Boilers.—The boilers are very defective, but repairable. The bottoms of the flues in many places want renewing, and also several new plates in the uptakes; several new stay bolts with patches are also required between the boilers.

We are of opinion that the vessel is repairable, but that the repairs required cannot be effected at Port Blair.

The cost of the repairs, however, we are unable to state; but considering the extensive nature of these, an entire new bottom, also the extensive repairs to hull and boilers, &c., we are of opinion that the "Diana" could not be repaired at Rangoon or Calcutta for less than (Rs. 15,000) Rupees fifteen thousand.

We do not consider it advisable on account of the lateness of the season, to send the vessel to Calcutta or Rangoon until November next, as by the time she can be got ready to start, the S. W. monsoon will have set in.

No. 324, dated 18th April, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to forward, for your information, the proceedings of a Committee of Survey held on the Steamer "Diana."

2. By the proceedings of this Committee you will observe, it has been decided that the heavy repairs which the vessel requires cannot be effected here.

3. I went on board the "Diana" this morning with Captain Fraser, and the Commander told me he could patch up his vessel sufficiently well to have her towed to Calcutta or Rangoon for repairs in about one week, and that there is yet time to have the "Diana" towed to Calcutta before the monsoon sets in.

4. As it will be necessary for the "Diana" to have some repairs effected before she leaves this, it would perhaps be as well if these repairs were effected at once.

5. I understand the "Quang Tung" requires her bottom to be scraped; should the repairs to the "Diana" be completed shortly, and Captain Duncan considers there is time to tow her to Calcutta or Rangoon before the commencement of the approaching monsoon, it appears to me the best plan would be to send her in tow of the "Quang Tung" to Rangoon, where she could also be cleaned. Captain Duncan should give his opinion in writing; and if there appears to you to be no risk you can adopt this plan; but if there be any risk the "Diana" must remain here until November and the "Quang Tung" go to Rangoon for what she requires.

No. 341, dated 22nd April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge receipt of your No. 18 of this day's date, and in reply begs to state that, as the "Quang Tung" has done the particular duty on which she was dispatched, he leaves her entirely at your disposal.

2. With regard however to the "Diana," the undersigned considers it advisable that she be towed to Rangoon before the bad weather fairly sets in, if she can be got ready, and no risk attaches to her removal.

No. 449, dated 2nd May, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge receipt of No. 75 of this date, and in reply to state that, as it is probable the "Arracan" will have to tow the "Diana" which is in a very precarious state, I do not consider it advisable to withdraw any of the Officers from the "Arracan," but if Captain Barrow likes on his own responsibility to end an Officer, there will be no objection.

I may add that the vessel to be towed by the "Quang Tung" should be well-manned and well officered.

No. 144, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In continuation of this Office letter No. 18 of the 21st ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that the hulk "Erin-go-bragh" was safely towed by the Steamer "Quang Tung" from Port Mouat to Port Blair on the 1st instant.

2. As regards the towing of the Steamer "Diana" by the "Quang Tung" to Rangoon, as noticed in my letter above referred to, I have to observe that, in consultation with yourself, it was considered advisable that the "Quang Tung" should not be delayed here, but should proceed at once to Moulmein, taking the chartered ship "Zurich" in tow, there to be filled with Commissariat stores awaiting freight, and for which duty the "Zurich" was ready, and I therefore now beg to apply to you that you will be so good as to issue instructions to the Commander of H. M.'s Steamer "Arracan," now about to proceed to Rangoon, to tow the "Diana" thither. It is most essential to the interests of the Settlement that the "Diana's" repairs should be effected as soon as possible, for she will, as she always has been, be very useful to the Department of Public Works in towing lighters with building material to the various stations of the Settlement where numerous works are now in progress or about to be undertaken, otherwise the loss of the present opportunity would be the loss of the Steamer's services for the next year.

I take this opportunity to return to you the proceedings of the survey report held on the Steamer "Diana," as also Captain Dodd's letter No. 485 of the 17th April 1867.

No. 151, dated 13th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to forward enclosed copy of a demi-official communication to my address from Captain Barrow, Commanding H. M.'s Steamer "Arracan," who objects to take the Steamer "Diana" in tow to Rangoon.

2. Captain Barrow is of opinion that it would be best to decide that the "Diana" should not go until the next monsoon. Under these circumstances, and as six months at least must elapse, I have the honor to solicit the Chief Commissioner's orders with regard to her free establishment, which consists as under:—

1 Commander	...	...	...	Rs.	150	0	0	per month.
1 Chief Engineer	...	...	..	"	125	0	0	"
1 2nd Engineer	...	...	...	"	83	5	4	"
1 Sekunnie	...	...	...	"	30	0	0	"
1 Stoker ...	...	...	...	"	18	0	0	"

From—H. Barrow, Esq., *Commander, Steamer "Arracan,"*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair

I do not think that it will be prudent to take the "Diana" this trip, as the barometer and weather indicate a change, and I would strongly protest against taking her; as if we have heavy weather, we shall very likely not reach Rangoon with her, and I think it would be best to decide that she should not go till next monsoon.

I should be sorry to put you to any inconvenience by your having to bring Mr. Homfray in from Port Mouat, but it will be impossible for me to proceed without another Officer. I shall be glad to have Captain Thorn if you will send him to do duty.

No. 546, dated 9th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to observe that a great deal of unnecessary expense has been incurred by painting the "Diana" from stem to stern. This vessel, if the weather permits, is under orders to be sent to Rangoon for thorough repair, and it is shere waste of money having her painted. Now, there is a large iron barge here used as a lighter, which is positively going to ruin for want of being painted. She is completely rusted all over; if half the paint which had been put on the "Diana" had been laid on this barge, there would have been some advantage.

I merely mention this in order that you may point out to the Harbour Master that it is his duty to attend to these matters better than he does now.

No. 162, dated 13th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 546 of the 9th instant, in which you observe that a great deal of unnecessary expense has been incurred in painting the

"Diana" from stem to stern, and remark that a large iron lighter is going to ruin for want of being painted.

In accordance with the concluding para. of your letter, I pointed these matters to the Harbour Master, who has forwarded to me his explanation, copy of which I beg to attach, No. and date as per margin, for your information.

No. 25 of 13th May, 1867.

No. 25, dated 13th May, 1867.

From—C. Darwood, Esq., *Harbour Master, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Memo. No. 188 of the 9th instant, forwarding copy of a letter No. 546 from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, to your address, on the subject of unnecessary expense in painting the Steamer "Diana," and not saving the flat "Actæon" from ruin. In reply, I beg to state that the Commander of the "Diana" is the person responsible for the supposed wastage. Annexed is copy of a letter from Captain Thorn, stating his reason for painting the vessel under his command.

The flat "Actæon," as stated to you in my Memo. No 179 of the 24th ultimo, was beached in Phœnix Bay for repairs and painting; but owing to the accumulation of work and to prevent the demurrage to the vessels in the harbour, I was obliged, though unwillingly, to leave the repairs and painting to a more favorable opportunity; as she was painted in and out only six or seven months ago, I did not think it was necessary to delay the discharging of the vessel in port for the sake of painting the "Actæon," especially when it was not absolutely requisite to do so. Her services cannot be spared at present without causing a great detention to the ship "Merchantman," the lay days having already expired, and the discharging and ballasting not having yet been completed.

No. 40, dated 13th May, 1867.

From—D. H. Thorn, Esq., *Commander, "Diana,"*

To—Harbour Master, Port Blair.

In acknowledging receipt of your Memo. dated the 10th instant, I have the honor to report that, in the present condition of the "Diana's" hull, the utmost care and attention is necessary to keep the plates in preservation; thus the expenditure of paints.

No. 249, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—H. Barrow, Esq., *Commander, Str. "Arracan."*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 159, dated the 3rd instant, and agreeably to your request I proceeded on board the Steamer "Diana," and am of opinion that she can be towed to Rangoon if the weather continues moderate, but there will be considerable risk in towing a vessel of her class and condition at sea at this time of the year.

But should it be determined that the vessel is to be towed to Rangoon this trip, it will be necessary to have the undermentioned done before she can be taken in tow:—

1st.—That she should be provided with a good boat.

2nd.—That the Engine-room hatch be planked in, and strong tarpaulins nailed over, and all hatches well secured.

3rd.—All ports to be caulked in.

4th.—Pumps to be kept ready for instant use, and a shifting pump put on board.

5th.—The vessel to be trimmed six inches by the stern, as she will not steer as she is at present

In conclusion, I beg to recommend that the vessel should leave this at 10 A. M., so as to prevent the necessity of anchoring at the light ship.

No 96.

Memo. from—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, for information, in continuation of this Office docket No. 94 of this day's date. Enquiries on the matter are being made from the Harbour Master.

No. 11, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—C Darwood, Esq., *Harbour Master, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

In reply to your letter No. 159 of this day's date, I have the honor to inform you, that the "Diana" will be ready for sea, with all the arrangements proposed by Captain Barrow carried out, by the evening of Tuesday, the 7th instant. I beg to suggest that Captain Thorn be directed to leave the small boat he has at present attached to the vessel behind in lieu of a

better and larger one that will be supplied from the Marine Department; also on his arrival at Rangoon to send back by the first opportunity the shifting pump, as it is much required here and belongs to the hulk "Erin-go-bragh."

No. 105.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

Copy forwarded for the information of Major H. N. Davies, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

No. 159, dated 3rd May, 1867.

From—LIEUT. COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Commander H. M. Str. "Arracan."

I have the honor to inform you, that I hope to get the Settlement Steamer "Diana," now lying beached at Haddo, afloat at the next spring tides, and probably on the 5th instant (the day after to-morrow.)

2. It has been considered by two competent Committee Officers that the vessel should proceed to Rangoon, there to be docked to undergo repairs, both to her bottom and certain portions of her side at the water line, where the iron plates have become thin and old.

3. In consultation with Major Davies, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, on duty at this Settlement, and representing the Chief Commissioner, I have with him determined to request you to take this vessel with you to Rangoon on your return trip to that Port, as it is most desirable, seeing how useful the Steamer "Diana" is in this Settlement, to get the repairs effected without loss of time.

4. I consider it however advisable, before the vessel is got off on the 5th instant, to ask you to be good enough yourself to inspect her as she now lies, in order that you may judge of her present condition, and that I may have the benefit of your experience as to the propriety of towing her to Rangoon.

5. If the present weather holds good for a few days more, I trust there will be no difficulty in doing so.

6. Will you therefore be good enough to-morrow morning or any other time convenient to you in the course of the day, to let me know your opinion for the information of the Chief Commissioner, as if favorable, I shall then be in a position to issue final instructions for the completion of arrangements already in hand for the vessel being got ready for sea and towed to Rangoon.

No. 463, dated 3rd May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to observe that the number of dogs kept by the prisoners on Ross Island appears unreasonably great, if they be required at all.

This is a nuisance which, unless stopped, will increase beyond endurance.

No. 87, dated 3rd May, 1867.

Memo. From—LIEUT-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Memo. No. 463 of this day's date, from the Chief Commissioner's Office, observing that the number of dogs on Ross Island appear to be a nuisance.

2. The undersigned begs to state that the Kutwal has orders periodically to send the dogs away when they are found numerous.

3. Mr. Homfray from time to time gives away these dogs to the Andamanese.

4. The Kutwal has been ordered to again remove the number of dogs on Ross Island without delay.

No. 410, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—President of Sanitary Committee.

The undersigned has the honor to enquire what is the advantage of Bunniahs supplying hospital diet, instead of the Commissariat, as it is understood convicts in hospital are under stoppages.

No. 102, dated 9th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT. A. F. LAUGHTON, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to inform you that in July 1865, I applied through the Superintendent, Port Blair, for an increase to my Office Establishment; sanction was subsequently obtained for the entertainment of one additional Clerk, for whom my predecessor had applied many months before, but I have not obtained sanction for the remaining additional hands I require.

2. The strength of the Settlement has been about double since the above; the Police have been increased, and a Company of Native Troops have been sent here; all this entails extra work in my Issue Department. I believe the Settlement is to be extended still more; this will bring in more work.

3. I beg therefore to request that you will move the Chief Commissioner to recommend the increase I require, as shewn in the accompanying schedule, for the sanction of the Supreme Government.

COMMISSARIAT DEPARTMENT.

Schedule of the number, description, and pay of the servants employed in the Port Blair Commissariat Office, and the scale recommended for the sanction of the Government.

Years.	Charges.		
	Ordinary.	Extraordinary.	Total.

Extract from Home Department of Government of India.		Office to which the proposition refers.	Nature of Charges.								Proposition.												Casual or Extraordinary.	Grounds of Proposition.	Orders of the Government of India.		
											Permanent.						Temporary.								Home Department.	Financial Department.	
No.	Date.		Present Scale.				Proposed Scale.				From what date to commence.	Increase per month.			Decrease per month.			Increase per month.			Decrease per month.					Remarks.	Remarks.	Orders
				Rs.	A.	P.		Rs.	A.	P.		Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A	P.	Rs.	A	P.					
		Port Blair Commissariat Office.					Office Establishment.				From date of entertainment.													The great increase of the Settlement population, both convict and free, has entailed so much extra work on the Department that the present establishment cannot carry it on efficiently.			
			1 Head Clerk ...	150	0	0	1 Head Clerk ...	150	0	0																	
			1 2nd Clerk ...	70	0	0	1 2nd Clerk	70	0	0																	
							1 3rd Clerk	50	0	0		50	0	0													
							Store Department.																				
			1 Head Store-keeper..	120	0	0	1 Head Store-keeper ...	120	0	0																	
			1 Store-writer ...	100	0	0	1 Store-clerk ...	100	0	0																	
							1 Deputy Store-keeper...	70	0	0																	
							Asst. Store-keeper ...	50	0	0																	
							2nd Asst ditto ...	50	0	0		120	0	0													

Note.—As a general rule, the financial comparison indicated by the two headings "Present" and "Proposed Scale" should include the whole establishment concerned. When increase of salaries, not involving increase of charge, is proposed, the reduction effected in other salaries should be shown in the application.

No. 551, dated 10th May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, with reference to your No. 102 of yesterday's date, submitting a schedule for an increase to the Commissariat office establishment of Port Blair, to enquire who is the cattle overseer? Is he included in the list?

No. 111, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT. A. F. LAUGHTON, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to inform you, in reply to your Memo. No. 551, dated 10th May, that the schedule I sent you is for office establishment only.

2. I have two Staff Serjeants, one of whom looks after the cattle. I applied through the Superintendent in a letter No. 369, dated 29th August 1865, for sanction for a Conductor and three Staff Serjeants, but have heard nothing of the result of the application.

No. 208, dated 29th March, 1867.

From—CAPTAIN THE HON'BLE J. H. FRASER, *Assistant Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to forward herewith for your information the report of the Committee on the annual Agricultural Exhibition at Port Blair, held on the 23rd instant.

Report of the Committee assembled on Ross Island on the 23rd March 1867, for the purpose of awarding prizes to the successful competitors at the annual Agricultural Exhibition and cattle show held on that day.

1. The Committee observed a marked improvement generally in the display of vegetables this year from that of last year; they have noticed that each description of the useful kinds of vegetable were considerably larger in size, better in quality, and more healthy in appearance. This was particularly observable in the case of brinjals, which were of a remarkably large size, so much so, that the Committee were induced to award a special prize to the cultivator of the best basket produced, as a stimulus towards a more extended cultivation of this important vegetable.

2. The show of turnips and knolkhole was very fine, as also was that of the "Kad-we-oo," or Karen potatoe, as produced in the Government gardens at the various outposts, though the self-supporters did not appear to have been so successful in this item.

3. The sugar-cane was very good, and from the fact that nearly every exhibitor produced a bundle of it, the Committee infer that the culture of it here is easy; that the soil is adapted to it; and that if its cultivation were carried on largely, it might eventually prove to be one of the staple products of these islands. They would therefore recommend that its production be in every way encouraged.

4. The yams were of good quality, and tolerably large in size; the sweet potatoes did not show well in consequence of the lateness of the season; for which reason also there was no great display of carrots or beet-root.

5. The Committee would especially bring to notice that great trouble appears to have been taken by the overseers at Haddo and Navy Bay Point, in the cultivation of vegetables in the Government gardens at those stations. The produce from Port Mouat also was of a very superior description, and reflects great credit on the cultivators at that station, more especially considering the short time it has been opened out.

6. Salt of first rate quality was exhibited by one man from South Point, to whom the Committee, deeming the production of this article a matter of great importance, awarded a special prize as an encouragement.

7. Special prizes were also awarded to the Andaman home for certain articles exhibited by J. N. Homfray, Esq, who is in charge of that institution. One item in particular is especially worthy of notice, *viz.*, the fibre from which the aborigines make their bow-strings, which being of great strength might be utilized with advantage, for purposes in which that quality is of importance. Other articles were also shown, *e. g.*, basket-ware made by the aborigines; several kinds of oil extracted from trees, hemp and quartz suggesting the presence of gold.

8. Articles made on the Settlement such as flour-mills and pottery were also exhibited, but prizes were not awarded for them. The Committee should also notice the excellent quality of the towelling manufactured in the Settlement from cotton grown on the Islands, nor would they omit mention of the paper exhibited, the produce of the mills lately erected on Ross Island. Two very large cobras, with the single mark on the hood, were exhibited by a convict resident at Navy Point, who caught them under one of the convict barracks. They appear to be of a rare variety, and the Committee would suggest their being sent to the Asiatic Society to be added to their valuable collection.

9. The number of exhibitors was considerably in excess of last year, and the quantities produced were so great that the accommodation provided, which it was thought would be ample, was found to be inadequate. The self-supporters appeared thoroughly to enter into the spirit of the exhibition, and entirely to see its object, as was proved by the anxiety evinced by them to obtain a good place to show off their products to the best advantage.

10. This was the first occasion which the annual exhibition included a cattle show This, for a beginning, was very successful; cows, goats, and poultry appear to have had more care bestowed upon them than other animals. Some of the cows exhibited were very fine. It is believed that in future years this portion of the show will improve considerably, especially if breeders understand that it is to be an annual one.

11. The arrangements for the accommodation of the cattle, fruits, flowers, and vegetables were admirable. Every endeavor had been made by Colonel Ford, the Superintendent, to adapt the various sheds which were erected for the occasion to the object for which they were prepared. The place was tastefully decorated with jungle produce, orchids, leaves, and flowers neatly arranged entwining the parts, and worked into arches and festoons, set off the buildings to advantage. The Settlement band was in attendance during the day, and the proceedings were concluded by the distribution of the prizes by Colonel Ford, who finally addressed the successful exhibitors, impressing on them the advantages of improving their stock, and of cultivating more especially those kinds of vegetables which are useful as articles of food. A list of prizes, with the names of the successful exhibitors, is attached.

NOTICE.

Port Blair Agricultural Exhibition.

The Annual Exhibition of live and garden stock, reared on the Settlement, will be held on Ross Island, on Saturday, the 23rd of March, 1867.

Prizes will be given for the best cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, poultry, &c., and vegetables and fruit exhibited by convicts: the former to be *bonâ fide* the produce of Settlement stock, and reared on Port Blair; and the latter cultivated in the convicts' gardens in the various Settlement stations.

There will be separate prizes for any newly found useful vegetable products of the Andaman jungles: such as fibres, resins, oils, &c., and for flowers, both cultivated and wild, if a sufficiently and deserving exhibition be made.

List of Prizes to be awarded to those convicts, and self-supporters, who are successful exhibitors of live and garden stock as per above conditions.

			Rs.	As.	P.
Cow ...	... 1st Prize for	best 3 years old and under 6 years.	5	0	0
„ ...	... 2nd „ „ 2nd	„	3	0	0
Heifer ...	... 1st „ „	„ Yearling.	4	0	0
„ ...	... 2nd „ „ 2nd	„	2	0	0
Bull ...	... 1st „ „	„ 3 years old and under 6 years.	5	0	0
„ ...	... 2nd „ „ 2nd	„	3	0	0
„ Calf ...	... 1st „ „	„ Yearling.	3	0	0
„ ...	... 2nd „ „ 2nd	„	2	0	0
Pair of Bullocks, one Prize for best pair—to be tested at the pleasure of the Committee...			8	0	0
2 Sheep ...	... 1st Prize for	best	4	0	0
„ ...	... 2nd „ „ 2nd	„	2	0	0
Milch Goat ...	... 1st „ „	„	4	0	0
„ ...	... 2nd „ „ 2nd	„	2	0	0
2 Pigs, one Prize for best pair ...	...	... ...	4	0	0
2 Sucking Pigs „ ...	...	... ...	3	0	0
1 Pair of Geese	... 1st Prize for	best	3	0	0
„ „ ...	... 2nd „ „ 2nd	„	2	0	0
„ Ducks ...	... 1st „ „	„	3	0	0
„ „ ...	... 2nd „ „ 2nd	„	2	0	0
„ Game Fowls	... 1st „ „	„	3	0	0
„ „ „	... 2nd „ „ 2nd	„	2	0	0
„ Ordinary „	... 1st „ „	„	4	0	0
„ „ „	... 2nd „ „ 2nd	„	3	0	0
„ Bantams, one Prize for best pair	...	... ...	2	0	0
„ Pigeons, „ „ „	...	... ...	2	0	0
Best shew of Indigenous Game—shot or alive...		... ...	3	0	0
Best Basket of English Vegetables	...	... ...	5	0	0
Do. do. Indian „	...	... ...	5	0	0
Do. do. Vegetables grown by Burmans		... ...	4	0	0
Do. 6 Cabbages	... ...	... ...	3	0	0
Do. 6 Knolkohl	... ...	... ...	3	0	0
Do. do. Salad	... ...	... ...	3	0	0
Do. 1 dozen Carrots	... ...	... ...	3	0	0
Do. 1 do. Turnips	... ...	... ...	3	0	0
Do. 6 Beetroot	... ...	... ...	3	0	0
Do. 1 dozen Yams	... ...	... ...	4	0	0
Do. 1 do. Sweet Potatoes...	...	... ...	4	0	0
Do. 1 do. Karen do.	("*Kad-we-oo*")	... ...	3	0	0
Do. 1 Bundle Sugar-cane	... ...	... ...	3	0	0
Do. Baskets of Herbs	... ...	... ...	3	0	0
Do. do. „ Fruit	... ...	... ...	3	0	0
Do. 6 Melons	... ...	... ...	2	0	0
Do. 6 Pine-apples	... ...	... ...	3	0	0
Do. Sheaf Indian-corn	... ...	... ...	2	0	0
Do. Garden Flowers	... ...	... ...	3	0	0
Do. Wild do	... ..	... ...	2	0	0
Do. Condiments	... ...	... ...	4	0	0
Do. Orchids	... ...	... ...	3	0	0

Port Blair,
The 27th February 1867.

B. FORD, Lieut.-Colonel,
Superintendent, Port Blair.

No. 336, dated 22nd April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—President, Sanitary Committee.

The undersigned has the honor, with reference to his letter No. 329, of the 20th instant, to forward in original, letters

No. 3, dated 9th April 1867, from Superintendent, Port Blair, on the subject of the Agricultural Exhibition on Ross Island.

No. 13, dated 18th April 1867, from Superintendent, Port Blair, forwarding copy of a letter from the Executive Commissariat Officer, Port Blair, forwarding two bottles containing samples of rice received by the "Zurich" and "Arracan." The undersigned requests the favor of a report on the rice.

The return of these letters is requested when no longer required.

No. 337, dated 22nd April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—President, Sanitary Committee.

The undersigned has the honor, in continuation of his No. 336, to forward a list of the prizes awarded to the late Agricultural Exhibition at Port Blair.

The attention of the Committee is invited to their list of vegetables, and a report requested as to what they consider should be cultivated at the various stations of this Settlement for the use of the convicts.

No. 392, dated 26th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request you will have the goodness to furnish him with a nominal return shewing number of free establishment of European, Eurasian, and Native receiving more than Rs. 8 a month in Government employ at the several stations of Port Blair.

No. 79, dated 2nd May, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to forward three nominal returns as requested in your Memo. No. 392, dated 26th April, 1867.

Nominal Return of Gazetted Officers, Superintendent's Free Establishment, Medical, and Steamer Diana, Port Blair.

No.	NAMES.	DESIGNATION.	SALARY.			REMARKS.
	GAZETTED OFFICERS.		Rs.	A.	P.	
1	Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford ..	Superintendent	1,500	0	0	
2	Captain the Hon'ble J. H. Fraser ..	Assistant ditto	593	10	0	
3	A. J. Cowie, Esq.	Senior Surgeon	1,000	0	0	
4	A. Gamack	Assistant ditto	525	0	0	
5	J. N. Homfray	In charge Port Mouat ...	400	0	0	
6	Rev. T. L. T. Warneford ...	Chaplain	500	0	0	
	SUPERINTENDENT'S ESTABLISHMENT.	Total ...	4,518	10	0	
1	Mr. C. Darwood	Asst. to Supdt., Harbour Master, and Senior Overseer ...	350	0	0	
2	„ R. Berrill	Accountant	300	0	0	
3	„ S. Fox	General Clerk	150	0	0	
4	„ J. D'Castro	Treasurer	100	0	0	
5	„ G. Andrews	Clerk, Convict Record Dept. ...	100	0	0	
6	„ J. Whitby	Ditto ditto	70	0	0	
7	Moung Myeen	Interpreter	70	0	0	
8	Eu Lay	Burmese Writer	30	0	0	
9	Mr. S. Smith	Superintendent of Peons ...	50	0	0	
10	„ T. Bryant	Overseer	100	0	0	
11	„ J. Hayward	Ditto	100	0	0	
12	„ W. Jackson	Ditto	100	0	0	
13	„ J. W. Richardson ...	Ditto	100	0	0	
14	„ J. Doyle	Ditto	80	0	0	
15	Moung Moe	Ditto	80	0	0	
16	Mr. T. Ashton	Church Clerk and Assistant Harbour Master	62	0	0	
17	B. Ramasamy	Servant	20	0	0	
18		Three Servants	45	0	0	
		Total ...	1,907	0	0	

Nominal Return of Gazetted Officers, Superintendent's Free Establishment, Medical, and Steamer Diana—(Concluded).

No.	Names.	Designation.	Salary. Rs.	A.	P.	Remarks
	Medical.					
1	Mr. H. J. Scott	Apothecary	189	7	6	
2	„ J. Ringrow	Ditto	189	7	6	
3	„ A. L. Xavier	Ditto	189	7	6	
4	„ J. Norman	Ditto	189	7	6	
5	„ E. Leopold	Ditto	189	7	6	
6	„ S. Zachariah	Dresser	52	8	0	
7	„ T. Zachariah	Ditto	52	8	0	
8	„ J. Thomas	Ditto	52	8	0	
9	„ Appaswamy	Ditto	52	8	0	
		Total ...	1,157	5	6	
	Steamer "Diana."					
1	Mr. D. H. Thom	Commander	150	0	0	
2	„ R. M. Beale	Chief Engineer	125	0	0	
3	„ W. Porrett	2nd ditto	83	5	4	
4	Ahmed Ally	Seacunny	30	0	0	
5	Mahomed Ally	Stoker	18	0	0	
		Total ...	406	5	4	
		Grand Total, ...	7,989	4	10	

Nominal Return of Free Establishment of the Commissariat Department, Port Blair.

No.	Names.	Designation of Office.	Monthly Salary. Rs.	A.	P.	Remarks.
	Office Establishment.					
1	G. Mitchell	Head Clerk	150	0	0	
2	W H. Atkinson	Store ditto	100	0	0	
3	C. Soobroy Moodelier... ...	2nd ditto	70	0	0	
	Executive Establishment.					
1	James Beel	Staff Serjeant	100	0	0	
2	James Whitby	Ditto	100	0	0	
3	M Tholasingun Moodelier ...	Head Store-Keeper... ...	120	0	0	
4	W. J. Cranston	Assistant ditto	50	0	0	
5	Kartick	Cooper	16	0	0	
	Free Coolies' Establishment.					
1	Vershay	Head Cooly	11	0	0	
2	Moonesawmy	Free Cooly ...	9	0	0	
3	Verahsawmy	Ditto	9	0	0	
4	Jyâhsamy	Ditto	9	0	0	
5	Seermooton	Ditto	9	0	0	
6	Assain Hossain	Ditto	9	0	0	
7	Seekunder	Ditto	9	0	0	
8	Ninah Mahomed	Ditto	9	0	0	
9	Shaik Ebrahim	Ditto	9	0	0	
10	Kather Mustan	Ditto	9	0	0	
11	Modur	Ditto	9	0	0	
	(*Four more Coolies applied for to complete the number.*)					
	Butchers' Establishment.					
1	Comarsawmy	Cattle Jemadar	20	0	0	
2	Govindoo Rajooloo	Ditto	20	0	0	
	Cook's Establishment.					
1	Sirnam } Settlement Marine Service.	Head Cook	16	0	0	
2	Timmal } Settlement Marine Service.	Ordinary ditto	11	0	0	
3	Kenneye } Settlement Marine Service.	Ditto	11	0	0	
4	Ponapen	Sappers' Hospital Cook ...	16	8	0	

Nominal Return of Free Establishment of the Commissariat Department, Port Blair—(Concluded.)

No.	Names.	Designation of Office.	Monthly Salary. Rs.	A.	P.	Remarks.
	Hospital Servants attached to Hospital H. M.'s 2-24th Regiment at Port Blair.					
1	Nogaboshum	Acting Assistant Purveyor ...	42	0	0	Banpaniah on leave.
2	Moonesamy	1st Class Cooly	13	8	0	
3	Pooloodoo	2nd ditto	12	0	0	
4	Chowree	2nd ditto	12	0	0	
5	Narreegadoo	Toty	15	0	0	
6	Ram Sing	Washerman	18	0	0	
7	Shaik Daood	Bheesty	15	0	0	
8	Mathary	Cook	16	8	0	
9	Chocholingum	Sweeper	12	0	0	

Return of Free Establishment in the Port Blair Division, Department of Public Works, April 1867.

Names.	Class and Grade.	Amount of Salary (per mensem.) Rs.	A.	P.	Remarks.
Lieut. W. G. Cumming, R. E. ...	Executive Engineer, 4th Grade ..	495	12	0	European.
J. F. Pope, Esq. ...	Assistant Engineer, 2nd " ...	300	0	0	Ditto.
Mr. J. H. White ...	Supervisor, 1st " ...	230	0	0	Ditto.
" C. F. Lindsay ...	Ditto, 2nd " ...	180	0	0	Ditto.
" Moung Moe ...	Ditto, 2nd " ...	180	0	0	Eurasian.
" A. McDermott ...	Overseer, 1st " ...	106	12	8	European.
Shunmoogum Moodlr. ...	Store-keeper " ...	60	0	0	Native.
Mr. C. Phipps ...	Accountant, 3rd " ...	180	0	0	Eurasian.
" B. Boyce ...	Head Clerk ...	60	0	0	European.
" R. H. Smith ...	Abstractor ...	50	0	0	Eurasian.
P. Malayaddy Coopoo Naik ..	Stone Cutter ...	50	0	0	Native.
N. Verasawmy ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
N. Moonosawmy ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
A. Vencadochello Naik ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
J. Balloo Naiken ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
R. Naryansawmy ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
A. Agomboro Naiken ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
C. Soobroyon Naiken ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
J. Veraysawmy Naiken ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Torpoo Soobrayon ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
N. Arjoonen ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Monathochany ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
M. Moothoosawmy ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Arreyappo Chany ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Vallayoothen ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Coomorasawmy ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
China Cimnoor ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Singana Valloo ...	Ditto ..	30	0	0	Ditto.
Cundasawmy ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Mooneesawmy Naiken ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Verappeen ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Moonsawmy Mistrie ...	Ditto ...	40	0	0	Ditto.
Sheik Hyder ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Ramchunder ..	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Buno Soobrayon ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Sheik Mahomed ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Rajoonoloor Gobund ...	Stone Mason ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Harrow Mistree ...	Ditto ...	50	0	0	Ditto.
Ameer ...	Ditto ...	40	0	0	Ditto.
Beemlio ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Encatasawmy ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Armagum ...	Stone Cutter ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Sonessbie ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Moonasawmy ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Etrajoo ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Coco Moonasawmy ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Rungasawmy ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Sheik Ibrahim ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Sookahir Gum ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.

Return of Free Establishment in the Port Blair Division, Department of Public Works, April 1867—(Concluded.)

Names.	Class and Grade.	Amount of salary (per mensem			Remarks.
		Rs	A.	P.	
Chunia Shunmoopun ...	Stone Cutter ...	30	0	0	Native.
Arma Chellum ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Appadonee ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Appasawmy ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Ramasawmy ...	Ditto ..	30	0	0	Ditto.
Premchand ...	Stone Mason ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Chunmum ...	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Perran ...	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Telluck ...	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Bachoo ..	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Mohadeb ...	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Ramchurn ...	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Gungasaur ...	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Mathoo ...	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Ballyobund ...	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Monoo ...	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Kallychurn ...	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Buycunt ...	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Madhue ..	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Gopaul ...	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Rummun ...	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Bonomally ...	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Kurroo ...	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Shiboo ...	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Chundro ...	Ditto ...	35	0	0	Ditto.
Arjasawmy ...	Stone Cutter ..	30	0	0	Ditto.
Vimgarasawmy ..	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
Peeche ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.
C. Nanaynsawmy ...	Ditto ...	30	0	0	Ditto.

No. 54, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo. by A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.*

Forwarded to the Superintendent, Port Blair, with reference to his Memorandum No. 21, dated 27th April, 1867.

No. 39, dated 27th April, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

No. 81, of 26th January 1865, from Supdt. to the Secy. to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.
No. 120, of 27th Feb. 1867, from do. to do.

Proposition for the appointment of a Treasury Officer at Port Blair, as also for other Officers, Assistants to the Superintendent.

Having been invited by you, in view of the great press of work and responsibility devolving upon me as Superintendent of this Settlement, to make any suggestions calculated to lighten or more fairly divide this labor between myself and subordinate officers, I have the honor to forward enclosed my views on the subject, which I would respectfully beg to submit for the consideration of the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, and Agent to the Viceroy and Governor General.

Proposition for the appointment of a Treasury Officer at Port Blair, as for other Officers, Assistants to the Superintendent.

In order that the Superintendent may be free to devote his attention generally to the more efficient administration of the Settlement, he should be relieved of the direct management of the treasury, to effect which object, it is proposed that an officer be appointed as a personal assistant to the Superintendent, who will hold subordinate charge of the Treasury under the control of the Superintendent, be a Disbursing Officer, and in charge of the preparation and submission of all financial returns and statements to controlling authorities, together with the combined duties of Money Order Agent.

This officer should have a small subordinate staff consisting of

1	Accountant*	at	150
1	Assistant do	„	100
1	Treasurer	„	100
1	Peon	„	15

* The Superintendent's Office to have a head clerk besides, on say Rs. 200.

The Personal Assistant to the Superintendent should, in addition to Treasury matters, have the control over the accounts of all Overseers of divisions; and as often as circumstances require, should personally inspect and check all such accounts and returns financially submitted to the Superintendent.

The very important duty of maintaining a correct control over the expenditure of all Government stores received from other departments should devolve on this proposed official, for which purpose, it should be his special duty to exercise a constant and personal examination of all such stores in the hands of Overseers of divisions, making his report accordingly to the Superintendent in a journal to be kept by him, in which the orders of the Superintendent on each point noticed should be recorded.

The receipts and issues of clothing to convicts should be made under his personal supervision, also the account of making up necessary books of acknowledgment of each convict so supplied and vouched by himself, should be maintained and submitted to the Superintendent for inspection after every authorized issue. Half the Superintendent's time almost is taken up daily by the examination, prior to counter signature of indents and receipts in triplicate, for payments thereon. As at present is the rule, not the smallest article can be issued for public or private use without his prior examination of, and countersignature to, the Indent. His equally careful examination of all receipts is also required before signing them. It is proposed that these indents for stores from the local Commissariat or other Departments now under countersignature of the Superintendent should be submitted to the Personal Assistant, according to local regulations for check before final issue by Departments, whether the same be on the public service or private purchase; and, unless further countersigned by him, no acknowledgment should be admitted to the Department of issue.

For the interests of Government, and more particularly of this Penal Settlement, it is proposed that there be no silver rupees admitted; and that, from a given date, the Treasury will refuse to receive such coins as a legal tender, except on the public service, then only at the discretion of the Treasury Officer subject to appeal to the Superintendent of the Settlement. To carry out this proposition, as far as concerns free men in the employ of Government, it is presumed a legislative enactment will be necessary.

The above proposition has, for some time past, been under the consideration of the Superintendent of Port Blair as a special means of compelling convicts who are always paid in copper tokens as a subsistence allowance, to turn it to its legitimate purpose; for the Superintendent, notwithstanding his continued checks is still under the apprehension that money is not only saved and hoarded up by term convicts, but is remitted away by them to their houses and families through the agency of free natives, some of whom must have a fellow feeling for their countrymen and others, who, for purposes of gain, enter into a compact to thwart the designs of Government. Under these circumstances, it is considered advisable that no other coin but the "Andaman token" be recognized in this Penal Settlement. This step will make convicts feel that their object to save money is frustrated, and free men will be precluded from entering into monetary transactions with them. Another benefit will also follow; for the convicts finding no other means of disposing of their money, will spend it on their food, and thus an improvement in their phisique and health will be effected. Orders could be sent on board any ship entering the harbour prohibiting the tender of silver in the bazar, and its being taken by any being also prohibited. Such coin might by these means be kept out of the Settlement.

Note.—Any free person leaving the Settlement should, on tender of the tokens in the treasury, receive the equivalent in silver.

Simultaneously with the introduction of the use of the copper token only as a legal tender, it is suggested that a Savings Bank be established in connection with the Treasury, and under the management of the Personal Assistant. This proposition and its advantages to Government was fully set forth in letter No. 81 of the 26th January 1865, of which a copy is attached.

As regards Assistants to the Superintendent, Colonel Strachey, R. E., Secretary to the Government of India, in the Public Works Department, under date Simla, the 5th September, 1864, No. $\frac{748}{352}$ C, wrote as under:—

"With a view to bringing the convict labor into a proper state of organization in the shortest possible time, and securing a satisfactory degree of activity and diligence and a more thorough co-operation of the Convict department with the Public Works Department, it may be desirable to strengthen the hands of the Superintendent of the Settlement by a few assistants whose attention should be entirely devoted to these matters. These Assistants would be entirely subordinate to the Superintendent, and would be given suitable Magisterial powers to enforce their authority; they would, on the one hand, see that the tasks given by the Engineers were fairly worked out, and, on the other, would take care that the convicts were not pushed beyond their real strength, and that all needful steps were taken to ensure their health and reasonable comfort, and to facilitate their effectual employment on the works on which so much of the success of the present attempt to complete the accommodation for a large number of men in a short period, must depend. Three or four officers of this class might, his Excellency in Council thinks, very probably be employed, while those works are in progress, with great advantage both as regards the rapid completion of the buildings, &c, and the proper care of the prisoners while employed on them."

Consequent on instructions, the Superintendent reported his views on what His Excellency the Governor General in Council had been pleased to propose. These views were stated at length in despatch No. 120 of the 27th February 1867, copy attached. Four officers, assistants to the Superintendent, were applied for. It was proposed that these officers should be so posted at the various centres about the Settlement, so as to have under their eye and control certain of the various divisions of convicts stationed about such locality. It was shown that it was impossible for the Superintendent or the Executive Engineer to regulate the tasks, and accurately

to test the daily out-turn of labor. It was recommended that these officers should have petty Magisterial powers so as to be able to settle complaints and punish the refractory on the spot; also see that the Superintendent's orders were carried out in all matters of interior economy affecting the stations under their control; and that they should exercise constant supervision over cultivation, fisheries, and other projects for the benefit and improvement of the Settlement.

All the above responsibilities now devolve upon the Superintendent and his one assistant. It must be admitted that it is impossible for these two officers to exercise that close and vigilant supervision over 1,000 free and 7,000 convict souls in all that is required of that population by the State for the advancement, discipline, order, and self-support of the Settlement. There are Overseers, both free and convict, at the various stations; but it must be obvious that men of this class and position, as in the Public Works or any other Department, require the constant supervision of reliable officers. It is impossible for the Superintendent and his assistant to get through their in-door and out door-duties single-handed. The Assistant Superintendent has the whole magisterial duty now to perform, and is also responsible to the Superintendent by constantly visiting every part of the Settlement in seeing that his views and orders are carried out. To discharge either of these duties properly, would fully occupy his time, yet he has to discharge both. If the proposed three* extra assistants were entrusted with the powers of Assistant Magistrates and the present Assistant Superintendent exercising those of a Magistrate only, and aided the Superintendent in the general supervision of the working of the three extra assistants, he would have as much business to attend to properly as would fully occupy him. The Superintendent would place one extra assistant resident in charge of all the stations on the northern shores of the Settlement, a second similarly on the south shores, and a third in charge of Chatham and Viper Island and the *new jail* about to be established there, including the western shores of Port Mouat. Since then, the Hon'ble Major General Sir Robert Napier in 1863, remarked upon the onerous and very difficult charge of the Superintendent, and suggested that a competent and efficient assistant* should be appointed, and His Excellency the Governor General in Council also recommended the addition of four assistants to the Superintendent. This Settlement has doubled in its population, both free and convict, as well as in its number of stations, and the extent of country it now covers.

* The 4th being the Personal Assistant in charge of Treasury.

* Captain the Hon'ble J. H. Fraser was appointed Assistant Superintendent on the 17th July 1865.

It is submitted that the above scheme suggests a better division of the labor and responsibility which, under existing regulations, devolving so largely as it does upon the Superintendent, almost crushes him with overwork.

No. 120, dated 27th February, 1867.

From—Major B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to apprise you that I have received a communication under date 26th October, 1864, No. 294, from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, in the Public Works Department, on the subject of provision of permanent accommodation of all kinds for the Civil and Military Establishment, and the convict population of Port Blair Settlement, and calling for the submission of a comprehensive scheme of operations for the fulfilment of this object within a period of two years from this date.

2. In para. 12 of the above communication, which I quote in the margin, I am only to refer individually to the 11th and 12th paras. of that. I report through you for the information of the Chief Commissioner as to the desirability of the employment of a few Assistants subordinate to me, for the purpose of superintending and regulating the employment of the convicts in co-operation with the Public Works Department, and with reference to which I beg to state for the Chief Commissioner's information that I shall be glad to have my hands strengthened, as His Excellency the Governor General in Council, has been pleased to suggest. Having communicated with the Executive Engineer on this subject, who has also received copies of the correspondence above referred to, he has remarked to me how very much the appointment of such officers, their attention being entirely devoted to such matter, would facilitate his labors. It is impossible for him, as it is for myself, to test the daily out-turn of labor with that accuracy that we both desire, and as is also absolutely necessary, not only to detect the idle, but to advance the industrious convict workmen; and he has agreed with me, that had each of these officers, one or two suitable convict assistants for measuring out and verifying the daily tasks of the men, that not only would a larger out-turn of work be received, but a more equal proportion (according to each man's capacity for labor) be obtained.

It is suggested in Colonel Strachey's letter, as to the suggestion of furnishing you with a few Assistants, entirely subordinate to yourself, for the purpose of superintending and regulating the employment of the convicts in co-operation with the Public Works Department, as this appears to be a matter of administration, subject to suggestion and report through Major Davies, for the Chief Commissoner's consideration, although the incidence of charge for such extra establishment may eventually be debitable against the Public Works Department.

3. With regard to the grade in the Government service, from which these officers are to be obtained, it is somewhat difficult to select. If taken from non-commissioned rank in

the army or the subordinate grade of Police, I fear that in the isolation of their position as regards locality and associates, that such a class of men are not likely to remain long steady, and, under such circumstances instead of being an aid, would become a bar to progress, and be held in terror instead of respect by the convicts in his charge. I would, therefore, rather beg to suggest that the officers be obtained from the junior grades of the Army or Uncovenanted Service, a preference being given in selection to such gentlemen as have had some Police or petty Magisterial experience,—a character for tact and good temper would be indispensible to their success; as well as a knowledge of an Eastern language. As regards salary, that a staff salary of Rupees 150 and free quarters be allowed to each of these officers while so employed.

4. As regards Magisterial powers, I would propose that they do not exceed those of a Subordinate Magistrate of the 2nd class; as regards imprisonment (by which here is understood labor in irons) for one month; and they have not power to fine any free subordinate beyond the limit of Rupees 50, and this only on Magisterial proceedings, and under the provisions of the Penal Code, nor any laboring convict any portion of his subsistence allowance, or any gangsmen more than ¼ of his month's pay.

5. The officers should have power of reduction of convicts in grade from 1st to 2nd or 2nd to 3rd classes, in cases of neglect of duty. Their decisions should, under all circumstances, be final. They should also have the power of summarily inflicting punishment to the extent of 12 stripes with a rattan in proved cases of idleness of convicts on work.

6. A small peon establishment would be required for these officers while employed as Assistants as proposed, and I would recommend that each be allowed two free peons at Rupees 15 per mensem each, and that a distinguishing chaprass or badge be sanctioned for the free peons employed by the Superintendent and his Assistants when on duty.

7. I would beg to take this opportunity of soliciting a similar allowance of two peons each to my ex-officio Assistants. It will be obvious that in the discharge of their duty under me, it is very desirable that they should be attended by one or two reliable men.

No. 110, dated 7th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to bring to your notice in continuation of my letter No. 39 of 27th April last* in which I drew attention to the inadequacy as well as the unsuitability of my present Office Establishment, that I find that the increasing pressure of business is too great as regards the general routine, to say nothing of the Treasury work for any one *mind* to combat against.

* *See* also this Office No. 224A, dated 6th March 1867.

2. I have now no clerks except convicts; the treasurer, though a free man, gives no security. I have brought this circumstance frequently to the notice of the Chief Commissioner while the Assistant Superintendent is fully occupied with other duties, so that I am left *entirely*, to carry on the whole office machinery *single handed*, in addition to hearing appeals from the Assistant Superintendent's Court, and directing or scrutinizing his procedure.

3. Under these and many other grave and pressing reasons that I could mention, I feel it absolutely necessary that I be accorded further office assistance, and I most earnestly urge that I may at once have given me the services of a Personal Assistant in charge of this Treasury.

4. This aid I cannot have from *any* clerk however good he may be. I feel I must have a responsible officer totally independent of myself, and who will relieve me entirely of the daily detail of the current finance of the Settlement.

5. In view, therefore, of my present position and of the immediate necessity I stand in of assistance, I have considered it advisable, as you are now here present, representing the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah in this Settlement, to request that the Committee on local affairs, convened by your directions and at present sitting, may visit my office, inspect my records, and report on the amount of work that has to be transacted, and see the books that I have to keep up, as well as on those other records that I ought to maintain, but have not time myself to do, or hands to aid me in, and which I am loathe to commence upon, in consequence of having none but *convicts* to help me in keeping. I strongly object to being left as I am at the present moment entirely at the mercy of these convict clerks. They are not only cognizant with the general subjects of correspondence and accounts, but they cause an evil influence to prevail abroad by their remarks or knowledge of what is going on, when they retire to their quarters. I know positively that the current transactions of my office are the topic of common conversation in the bazar; as are also many matters of policy that should never be publicly known. This happens to be particularly the case now when my accountant is under suspension, and my acting head clerk, an ex-convict, sick at his quarters, and has resigned his post.

6. I submit that there is not a Government Officer *any where* holding such a responsible post as I do, who is situated as I am.

7. I have *no one* about me on whom I can rely or look to assist me with advice, financial or otherwise, save the Assistant Superintendent, who has had no previous experience in such matters, and whose immediate duties are those of Magistrate and seeing that my orders are attended to out of doors.

I trust, therefore, that you will afford me the benefit in the opinion of the Committee in order that some system of better management may be arrived at by them, which will, for the future, relieve me of part of my unparalleled responsibilities, and enable me to do more justice, generally, to the onerous and difficult charge which the Government has been pleased to entrust me with.

No. 81, dated 26th January, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to submit for the consideration of the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, an application to be allowed to establish a Savings Bank at this Settlement, interest being allowed upon deposits therein.

2. The desirability of the establishment of such an institution, locally has been long felt. The only means open to persons resident here of making Savings Bank deposits being by remitting their savings to the Bank in Calcutta, but very few of them so lodge their savings, as in the event of any depositor leaving this Settlement, he is obliged *personally* to apply at the Calcutta Office should he desire to withdraw his deposit, or else to send up his Bank Book for examination, which, in the present uncertain state of our communication with Bengal, involves a delay of three months or more before an adjustment can be effected, and consequently many who would save their money spend it.

3. My object more especially in soliciting permission to establish a Settlement Savings Bank is for the following reasons:—*First*, for the benefit of the men of the Settlement Marine service, the office establishments, and free uncovenanted employees of the Settlement who feel greatly the inconvenience I have already described, and who, had they the ready means of saving such as I have pointed out, would be led to habits of prudence and economy, and to a longer connection with this Settlement than they might otherwise feel inclined for, an advantage in itself of no small importance in thereby securing a continuance of the services of many a good seamen or useful subordinate whose place suitably to supply is never an easy matter. My *second* reason for seeking to establish a local Savings Bank, is for the benefit of the convicts transported to Port Blair Many of these, more particularly those who are self-supporters, are frugal and save money, too often lost to Government in the event of death, owing to the custom prevalent amongst this class of prisoners of burying or otherwise concealing their savings; and I feel sure that the interest obtainable by depositing their money, would induce many to do so, that is when the scruples are overcome, which a convict naturally may have, to let it be known that he has any money at all: and inasmuch as the property of all convicts on decease lapses to Government, the State would, comparatively speaking, gain considerably by the establishment of such an institution; while, on the other hand, self-supporting life and long-term convicts, who by a long period of good conduct may hope eventually to obtain tickets of leave in these Islands, will be materially assisted in the realisation of a sum sufficient to enable them to become settlers on the soil, and thereby contributors to the improvement and prosperity of the Settlement.

4. All that is needed beyond the consent of Government to this proposal is the permission to entertain a clerk to be exclusively employed in the duties of the Bank under the immediate control of the accountant of my office. He should be required to find security for a reasonable amount, say five or six thousand rupees; his salary should not be less than rupees 100 per mensem, and he would be provided with such quarters as the Superintendent could afford him.

5. *Lastly*, I beg to add that the establishment of this Bank would also be a convenience to the Settlement Treasury, as the money therein deposited would be available for circulation and be of great assistance at such times as difficulty is felt in meeting demand thereon, in consequence of the delay which sometimes occurs in the receipt of supplies of cash within the time expected.

6. The Government rates of interest allowed are, I believe, 3¾ per cent. per annum; but to secure the benefit of the above convenience, to add to the inducement to individuals, to save and also to simplify accounts, I respectfully beg to recommend that, should my proposal be favorably considered by Government, that 4 per cent. per annum be allowed on all deposits.

No. A2, dated 7th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COL. B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I had the honor recently through you to lay before the Chief Commissioner the fact of the very great difficulty in which I have found myself placed in consequence of the recent suspension of Mr. Berrill, head clerk and accountant of this office from official duty, and I earnestly begged that the Chief Commissioner, seeing that I now stand alone and unaided with the current duties of the accountant actually devolved upon myself, would be pleased, in consideration of my difficult position, not to deprive me of Mr. Berrill's official services till he should be required to appear before the Court of the Recorder of Rangoon.

2. As I have not heard anything, by the return trip of the Steamer "Arracan" from Rangoon, in reply to my appeal to the Chief Commissioner, and as Mr. Berrill will be obliged,

no doubt, very shortly to proceed to that port, in consequence of the "Pomona" wreck case. I have the honor, under the circumstances in which I am now placed, to request of you, as being empowered to act for the Chief Commissioner, to allow Mr Berrill to attend my office for a few days; not, however, by this, desiring to release him for the time being, but in order that he may hand over his accounts, which involve large sums for which I am responsible, in a manner that will be satisfactory, not only to myself, but also to the satisfaction of such person as I may appoint to receive them from him provisionally.

3 Since Mr. Berrill's suspension, I have lost the services of the person whom I put in to officiate in his place; and I therefore ask this of you, for, being so hard pressed, not only with the current business of the Settlement, but with the duty of affording a vast amount of information to yourself and the Committee now sitting, it must be apparent to you that I cannot possibly do all this extra and this account work alone by myself.

LIST OF BOOKS.

Superintendent's Office Accountant's

Cash Book.
Cash Balance Book.

Treasurer's

Cash Balance Book.
Payment Book.
Register of Bills and Issues.
Contingent Bills.
Deposit Book.
Salary Bills
Copy of Account Current Book.
Book of Cash Recoveries.

Government Letter Books	...	...	7
Chief Commissioner's Letter Books	...	...	7
Miscellaneous Letter Books	...	...	23
Monthly Reports	...	...	4
Shipping List	...	...	3

Files of Letters received.

No.	1	Commissariat Indents.
„	2	Ditto.
„	3	Ditto.
„	4	Ditto.
„	5	Ditto.
„	6	Ditto.
„	7	Ditto.
„	8	Ditto.
„	9	Ditto
„	10	Ditto.
„	11	Ditto.
„	12	Chief Commissioner's
„	13	Ditto.
„	14	Ditto.
„	15	Ditto.
„	16	Public Works Department.
„	17	Cocos.
„	18	Government Public Works Department.
„	19	Assistant Superintendent.
„	20	Commissariat.
„	21	Miscellaneous.
„	22	Ditto
„	23	Ditto.
„	24	Ditto.
„	25	Commissariat.
„	26	Port Mouat.
„	27	3-60 Rifles.
„	28	Detachment 2-24.
„	29	Police.
„	30	Advices.
„	31	Naval Brigade.
„	32	Public Works Department, Chief Engineer.
„	33	Commanders of Vessels.
„	34	British Burmah
„	35	Auditor, British Burmah.
„	36	General Statements.

No. 524, dated 9th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 2 of this day's date, and to state that, in consideration of the labor thrown on your office by my visit on inspection duty here, and also under the circumstances as explained in your letter, I feel certain the Chief Commissioner will not disapprove of your requiring Mr. Berrill to set everything in order before he leaves this. Therefore, you may direct his attendance at office, and he will be entitled to pay for such days as he may attend; but it must be understood that the performance of this duty gives no claim to exemption from whatever penalty, the misconduct for which he was suspended, rendered him liable.

No. 534, dated 8th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to acknowledge your Nos. 39 of 27th April, and 110 of 7th May 1867, on the subject of your Office Establishment. I think it scarcely falls into the duties of the Committee at present sitting to examine your Office, but I have instructions to go over it with you, and purpose doing so at 10 A. M. to-morrow.

2. I certainly think you require more free element in your Office, but I had better postpone further remarks until I have gone through the records.

3. As I purpose leaving this on Sunday, may I request all replies to my letters may be furnished not later than Friday.

No. 560, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that, having inspected your Office, I have the following observations to make.

Your regular sanctioned establishment, and the extra hands you employ, are as follows: This does not include the Assistant Superintendent's Office Establishment. Possibly these are sanctioned,

Regular Establishment.		Additional Writers.	
Clerks.	Rate of pay.	Clerks.	Rate of pay.
	Rs.		Rs.
1 Berrill	300	1 Jackson	100
2 Fox	150	2 Whitley	70
3 D'Castro	100	3 D'Cruz	50
4 Andrews	70	4 Bluet	50
5 Moung Meit...	70	5 Aratoon	30
6 Moung Mingay	30	1 Printer	25
		1 Assistant	25
		1 Moochie	25
		1 Duflry	14
		1 Assistant	10
Total	720	Total	419

The additional hands, I believe, are all prisoners, and so also are most of your regular establishment.

2. Although your regular establishment is fixed by Government, it appears you are put to shifts to distribute the pay according to the deserts of the clerks. There is nothing, perhaps, absolutely wrong in this, but the practice is bad in principle, and however fair the head of an Office may distribute the pay, such an arrangement will infallibly lead to dissatisfaction. I found some such system in vogue in my Office when I returned from Europe; but I strongly objected to it and have written to Government to get it altered. Some time ago Colonel Phayre addressed you and requested no plurality of appointments should be allowed; but looking to your muster-roll a few months back, I see Moung Moung drew regularly two salaries *viz.*, pay as interpreter, and pay as a Division gangsman; this must be stopped at once. It is impossible a gangsman, whose duty is to be with his gang at out-of-doors work, can attend to duties in your Office.

3. Regarding the state of your books, on the whole they appear well kept; the most important are those connected with the money. You have one ledger which shows all receipts and issues under distinct budget heads; this is as it should be. You then have another ledger which shews gross receipts; and you have a third, which is nearly similar. I think in

one of these latter should also be shown receipts in detail; and where cash is received for store issued, the number of the indent should be entered. I see you have a practice of entering in payments as received from so and so, entering the name I think in the book where this is entered; it should be shown on what account the payment into the Treasury is made; this might enable you to do away with one of those small rough books of which there are too many. All money transactions should, as a rule, be noted in good-sized books, well bound, with the pages numbered from first to last right through before the book is commenced. You should have a regular ledger for local fund receipts, and another for your miscellaneous fund; these books should be substantial ledgers and should be balanced daily.

4. Regarding the increase you have asked for to your Office, so long as the present system is continued of your being able to obtain aid from the European and Eurasian prisoners, it is difficult to see clearly what is wanted. At present, your total strength is far beyond that of my own Office, where the Office work is four times as heavy as it is in yours. My correspondence file alone ranges between 7,000 and 8,000 letters issued annually, and yours need not exceed 2,000; the clerk who added in 990 numbers to your letter file in the month of December last, to run up the total of your numbers, should be fined. Of course, many hands of yours are very inefficient: I should say some are worse than useless; they give a fictitious strength to your Office, which is real weakness.

5. I see there is much work in your Office of which you should be relieved I beg to suggest the following arrangements:—I think that the Treasury should not be in your hands at all. You are surrounded by men, whose antecedents have, to put it in a mild way, not proved their fidelity; and so long as the cash transactions are in your own hands, you may at any moment be the victim of a conspiracy. Habit and routine work get one into such matter-of-fact ways that one comes to believe what are seen with one's own eyes must be all right; but the fallacy of this is but too well known; the correction for this difficulty is inspection,—real sharp inspection—at short, but uncertain, intervals. Now, if the Assistant Superintendent had charge of the Treasury, you would be able to inspect his cash books, &c. &c., and that with an occasional inspection from the Accountant General of Rangoon would be a great improvement on the present system.

6. You have now got about Rs. fifty (50) in your Treasury and 7,100 copper tokens, besides a few deposits and some pice. This is all you have, and you should never have more than from Rs. 20,000 to 25,000 in your hands; this mostly goes to pay fixed establishments, for which regular abstracts are submitted. The cash that has to be paid out for contingencies is, or should be, mighty small. With properly kept books, the receipts would give no trouble. There can be no difficulty in managing a Treasury of this sort. Then, again, there should be fixed periods for transacting Treasury work. I would only allow the Assistant Superintendent two days a week (Saturdays and Fridays) for the transacting of Treasury and Court work. Your own experience in British Burmah must teach you that this is ample for the disposal of this class of work in Ross Island. Thus the Assistant Superintendent would have four clear days in each week to assist you in supervising the out-stations. As the Assistant Superintendent would have the receiving of all cash paid into the Treasury, it would be proper that he signed all indents on the Commissariat for goods issued to Bunn'ah, or private persons on which cash is prepaid. This duty should, except in special and urgent cases, be done only on the days when the Treasury work is in hand, and because the cash has to be paid in before the articles could be issued. You would still have to sign all indents for stores required for hospital and Settlement purposes, whether paid for or not; but the division of labor would be distinct, and would much relieve you.

7. If you elect to carry out these proposals, there is nothing to prevent your doing so, unless you require to refer to the Accountant General; that once done, I would suggest your reducing your Office establishment. The Treasury clerk would, of course, have to be transferred to the Assistant Superintendent's office. This and one clerk for current and general work is ample for his Office I think. If you retain one clerk, (the best of the additional hands you have) to fill up the place of the Treasury clerk who would be transferred to the Assistant Superintendent's Office, I would recommend your dispensing with the services of all the other supernumeraries. At the end of a month, you might report how the plan works.

8. Regarding the services of another Officer which you have applied for, I will not now discuss. The Chief Commissioner will doubtless take that matter into consideration; but I may say at once that a Personal Assistant in charge of the Treasury is a proposal I do not think can be entertained.

9. One thing I think highly desirable, and that is, that all your clerks should be free men. I do not think you should have one convict in your Office.

No. 164, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter No. 560, dated the 11th instant, on the subject of my Office establishment.

2. In para. 1 of your letter, you review my Office establishment under head regular "6 clerks," under additional "10 clerks." With regard to the latter batch of employés, I beg to say that being convicts, they are employed as is laid down by you;

but as such employment is simply on their convicts' subsistence, it should be remembered that such occupation might be in any other Government department of the Settlement, and in which they must still be subsisted; and therefore I do not think that such sum of subsistence should be debited against my office, especially as you include under the head of clerks 10 writers, 7 moonshees, and 2 duftries.

3. In para. 2 of your letter you remark on my having allowed a plurality of appointments, and you instance a case. You have been misinformed upon this point, as described by yourself. I admit that I have made some re-distribution upon the pay of one or two of the under-subordinates; but I think it will be sufficient, if I say that such arrangement was made with an eye only to the benefit of the public service, and in which act I considered myself as Superintendent of this Settlement permitted to use my own discretion.

4. With regard to what you remark in your third para, I beg to say that the same shall have my earnest and full attention, and shall be carried out so far as I find the same to be similar to the Accountant-General's formula.

5. In your para. 4 you refer to my being able to obtain Office aid from the Christian prisoners. On this I beg to remark that you yourself saw my office under the most unfavorable, and to me distressing and disorderly, circumstances: my accountant was under suspension; my acting head clerk, an ex-convict, absent from the effects of intemperance. These men had worked well, at any rate so far as manual labor was concerned. In my extremity I was compelled to call in all the labor I could lay my hands upon, and the number employed, though apparently numerically excessive, was occasioned by the fact of none of them being accustomed to Office work such as mine; and having no one to show them their work, I was compelled, as actually all the duties devolved upon myself, to set each of them to such simple details as in the aggregate alone enabled me in any way to continue the daily course of official duty, which was augmented by you to 14 and 18 hours' daily work, devolving on them and myself, consequent on your arrival at this Settlement, the details of which I have had to be ever watching, and still myself to carry on unaided, with the very drudgery of my Office.

6. The numerical error in letter numbering that you noticed has been dealt with by my punishing the convict delinquent.

7. You observe, and I am happy to say carry me out in my assertion, that many of my hands are very inefficient; it is, indeed true, that they are: and their inability causes increase in numbers, hence the fictitious strength of my Office. I would only ask what else could I do but call in any help under present difficulties?

8. What you remark in para. 5 of your letter is no doubt very true; and I also quite coincide with you as to propriety of strict inspection in all pecuniary matters. My multitudinous duties prevent my having that command over my Treasury Office that would enable me, without a continual thorough investigation, to see the state of my finances. As you have remarked, the difficulty is *inspection*; but I am unable, in view of the continued extension of the Settlement, to give the Treasury that continued supervision and attention which you suggest. In this dilemma you propose for my relief the appointment of the Assistant Superintendent to be chief of the Treasury. I should, of course, make it my duty to exercise the check that you propose; but I earnestly submit it for the Chief Commissioner's information, that Captain Fraser has had no previous personal experience in Treasury matters, and I feel that to place him in charge thereof, and the current Indent and pay duty of the Settlement will, by the excess of supervision, be necessary to prepare a novice in this work, who is not an accountant, but *increase* the matter of the outstanding work under which I fear, if not *really* aided, I must shortly succumb. I *entreat*, therefore, that the Chief Commissioner will be pleased to recognize the urgency of my position, which requires immediate succour. I have been striving for long to combat many increasing trials, and have often represented how those have continued to grow about me; and had I not been actuated by a sense of duty still to persevere, I should not have had the heart to carry on.

9. You remark in para. 6 of your letter the smallness of the amount of cash in my Treasury; but this is a mere accident. To meet money matters here, I shall always have from ¼ to ½ a lakh of rupees in hand. You yourself have seen the lath and plaster surroundings of my Treasury, and the frail wooden-boxes that hold the specie. I need hardly remind you how often I have asked that these matters might be mended; at present there is no security. I only mention this again for Captain Fraser's sake as regards the safe custody of cash. As regards my own safety, when I mention how I hesitate to place him in charge even of the disbursement of so little, I leave it to be inferred in how *anxious a state of mind I must ever be*, until I have the aid that I have already suggested, *viz.*, that of an *experienced* and *independent Treasury Assistant.*

10. I have carefully considered what you remark in para. 6 of your letter, and shall not fail to give your suggestions a trial. I would, however, beg respectfully to submit to the Chief Commissioner my humble opinion that you have unintentionally underrated (because you have not had a sufficient opportunity of seeing) the extent and responsibility of the work devolving on this Treasury, as well as on the Assistant Superintendent in his Court, and when on duty at out-stations.

11 In perusing your para. 8, I fancy there is no occasion to consult the Accountant General, British Burmah

12. I decidedly agree with you that the removal of the Treasury and its duties from me permanently would be a source of great assistance in setting me more free for general duty, and therefore highly desirable. The impossibility of affording me this aid by the appointment of Captain Fraser, I have, I hope, already made apparent. As regards the assistance you recommend for me individually as the Superintendent of Port Blair in charge of the record, and histories of 7,000 convicts by reducing me to *one* clerk must simply be a misconception on my part of the meaning of your letter, which all hinges on the parenthesis of the paragraph under notice, in which occurs the word "additional." Permit me to recall to your memory the elaborate accounts, reports, returns, &c., and of the correspondence I am continually concerned in, with almost every zillah and treasury in British India and Burmah, (to avoid prolixity, I do not here refer to a multiplicity of other Office work that is daily before me.) If I have not mistaken you, you require me at once to *reduce* my office establishment, and this, permit me to say, at a time when I have applied for and most need an *increase* to it, and to the number of my assistants; but before I do so, and in view of the fact of my having now been reduced to the necessity of discharging, as I said before, the common drudgery of my own Office to my humiliation, in the eyes of the ignorant people that surround me, I cannot rashly throw myself upon the mercy of one solitary clerk, unless I am positively ordered to do so. Before this matter is laid* I would solicit the Chief Commissioner for his final orders.

* [Sic in copy —P D.]

No. 494, dated 6th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Assistant Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I understand the Overseers, both free and convict, are allowed to inflict at will up to six stripes of a rattan on prisoners. I am not prepared to say the rule is bad, supposing the Overseer is a man moderate in his temper, or has sufficient medical knowledge to know when a man is sick and merely in a lingering, state; but the Legislature has hedged the infliction of corporal punishment round with several salutary restrictions. I request you will favor me with a copy of the local rules on the subject of Overseers flogging prisoners, and a return in the following form :—

Return of Prisoners flogged by order of Overseers from 1*st May* 1866 *to* 30*th April* 1867.

Name of Prisoner	No. of stripes inflicted.	Nature of offence.	Name of Overseer by whose order the stripes were inflicted.	Remarks.

No. 116, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—Captain the Hon'ble J. H. Fraser, *Assistant Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to forward the return of prisoners flogged by order of Overseers, from 1st May 1866 to 30th April 1867, as called for in your letter No. 494 of the 6th instant.

There has been no written order issued as yet with regard to the powers of an Overseer in administering punishment by stripes with a rattan; but the Superintendent of Port Blair has always, when placing an Overseer in charge of a station, explained to him his duties, and given him powers of inflicting six stripes when necessary. I send a copy of a Persian Order, with translation, authorizing Division gangsmen to administer six stripes.

In the drafting out of the Code of Local Rules and Regulations now in course of preparation, this subject is noticed.

Circular Order, dated 13*th June* 1865, *issued by* Major B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair, in Persian.*

The Division gangsmen having no other power to compel to work the laboring convicts under their orders, but the verbal enjoinments which seem to have no effect on several of the convicts, who are too idle for work and regardless to orders, to a great loss to Government, the

Superintendent authorizes all the Division gangsmen to be more strict in compelling such convicts to work by expressions, looks, and threatenings as may be necessary; and if such convicts prove themselves still obstinate in obeying the orders, the Division gangsmen are empowered to inflict corporal punishment to the extent of six stripes.

It is ordered that an English translation of this order be sent to all Overseers for their information.

All Division gangsmen will sign this order (as seen), and circulate it amongst themselves, and, when every one of them has seen and signed it, to be returned to the Superintendent's Office.

Return of Prisoners flogged by order of Overseers, from 1st May 1866 to 30th April 1867.

Names of Prisoners.	Number of Stripes inflicted.	Nature of Offence.	Name of Overseer by whose order the stripes were inflicted.	Remarks.
Nazir ...	3 Stripes ...	Neglect of duty	Mr. T. Bryant.	
Kallachund ...	Ditto ...	Ditto. ...	Ditto.	
Aga Moot ...	Ditto ...	Ditto. ...	Mr. W. H. Jackson.	
Rohun Doosaud ...	6 Ditto ...	Scheming from P. W. D. ..	Mr. T. Bryant.	
Hurnam Sing ...	Ditto ..	Sleeping on his post while on duty ..	Ditto.	
Nijamoodeen	Ditto ...	Attempted to assault Settlement Gangsman ..	Ditto.	
Hurnam Sing ...	Ditto ...	Sleeping on his post while on duty ...	Ditto.	
Ahmud *alias* Yauses ..	Ditto ...	Making false reports and idling	Ditto.	
Jankee ...	Ditto ...	For constant quarrelling ...	Mr G. J. Scott.	
Burgoodoss ...	Ditto ...	Absent from P. W. D. ..	Mr. T. Bryant.	
Nazir ..	Ditto ...	Ditto.	Ditto.	
Ratta .	Ditto ...	For not carrying out the orders given by the Overseer ...	Ditto.	
Ahmud *alias* Yauses..	Ditto ...	For quarrelling amongst themselves ...	Ditto.	
Hoosseln ...	Ditto ...			
Zariroo ...	Ditto ...			
Palleegu ...	Ditto ..	For refusing to work .	Ditto.	
Boota Dhobee .	3 Ditto .	Neglect in washing convicts' clothing ...	Ditto.	
Shamut Khan ...	6 Ditto ...	For disobedience of orders in collecting supplies in large quantity in their barracks ...	Ditto.	
Jeeva ..	Ditto ...			
Ranza ...	Ditto ...			
Peerbux ...	Ditto ..			
Ameer ...	Ditto ...			

No. 364, dated 24th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request a list in the accompanying form showing every person who pays fees on whatever account, and the amount, and whether monthly or otherwise.

No. 95, dated 4th May, 1867.

Memo. from Lieut. Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Memo. No. 364 of 24th instant, and with reference thereto begs to forward a Statement showing the information therein called for.

Return of Persons who paid Fees at the Settlement of Port Blair, on 24th April 1867.

Name of Payee.	Description of Fee.	Amount.	At what.	From what date paid.
Guffoor ...	Servant	1	In advance on the 1st of the month.	June 1865.
Jeet Sing ...	"	1		December 1866.
Jokokhan ..	"	1		Ditto.
Bundho ...	"	1		Ditto.
Munroop ..	"	2		January 1865.
Ahsing ...	"	1		Ditto.
Tholan ...	"	1		May 1865.
Affasemy ..	"	1		February 1867.
Ranamith ...	"	1		April 1866.

Return of Persons who paid Fees at the Settlement of Port Blair, on 24th April 1867.—(Continued.)

Name of Payer.	Description of Fee.	Amount.	At what.	From what date paid.
N. Douglass ...	Servant	1	In advance on the 1st of the month.	April 1866.
Kungalee ...	"	1		January 1866.
Goinds ...	"	1		Ditto.
Chengumbaido ...	"	1		April 1867.
Monesamy ...	"	1		February 1867.
Wajoo ...	"	1		March 1867.
Bholum ...	"	1		February 1866.
Hospital 2-24 ...	"	2		April 1867.
Detcht 2-24 ...	"	2		Ditto.
Mythadoon ...	"	5		Ditto.
Troke Pen ...	"	7		February 1867.
Lieut.-Col. B. Ford ...	"	6		November 1864.
Captain Fraser ...	"	12		Ditto 1865.
A. J. Cowie ...	"	5		April 1867.
Lieut. Laughton ..	"	5		May 1865.
Lieut. Cumming ...	"	2		March 1866.
Captain Surplice ...	"	8		January 1867.
A. Gamack ...	"	4		January 1865.
Revd. S Warneford ...	"	5		November 1866.
Lieut. Lownds ...	"	6		October 1866.
Captain Dekynum ...	"	1		April 1867.
C. Darwood ...	"	1		September 1866.
Officers' Mess ...	"	9		November 1866.
M. Green .	"	6		November 1864.
J. F. Pope ...	"	4		August 1865.
J. Norman ...	"	1		April 1866.
G. Doughty ...	"	3		February 1866.
R. Berrill ...	"	4		July 1865.
C. Perry ...	"	2		Ditto.
T. Ashton ...	"	1		March 1867.
J. Whitley ...	"	2		January 1867.
Sobroy ...	"	1		Ditto.
H. Scott ...	"	4		February 1867.
T. Beeby ...	"	1		May 1866.
C. Phippe ...	"	1		Ditto 1865.
G. Nulchete ...	"	2		Ditto.
J. DeCastro ...	"	2		February 1866.
G. Andrew ..	"	2		January 1865.
Mrs. Alexandre ...	"	1		June 1866.
B. Boyce ...	"	1		September 1866.
Moung Mynn ...	"	1		Ditto.
A. L. Xasin ...	"	4		Ditto.
Smith ..	"	2		July 1865.
J. Burgron ...	"	3		Ditto.
Head Store-keeper ...	"	1		June 1865.
C. Lindsay ...	"	1		August 1865.
McDermot ...	"	2		January 1867.
T. Bryant ...	"	1		May 1866.
Kistwasawmy ...	"	1		September 1865.
Bulram ...	"	1		November 1865.
Kanyie ...	"	1		October 1866.
L. Fox ...	"	1		October 1864.
Jhanghen ...	"	1		December 1864.
E. A. D. ..	"	1		Ditto.
G. Scott ...	"	1		January 1866.
Jota ...	"	1		April 1866.
Khaton ...	"	1		March 1867.
Katafee ...	"	1		February 1867.
Pachcowree ...	"	1		October 1865.
Ebrahim ...	"	1		Ditto.
Marasing ...	"	3		December 1864.
Rogojee ...	"	1		January 1865.
Dyaljo ...	"	1		March 1867.
Gungapersaud ...	"	1		April 1867.
Sunkor ...	"	1		November 1866.
Jumseurgee ...	"	1		November 1865.
Ramdubee ...	"	2		Ditto.
Mustuk ...	"	1		March 1866.
Sheambux ...	"	3		January 1865.
Greeshnarim ...	"	1		February 1867.
Wuguhasum ..	"	3		January 1865.
Bugroandoss ...	"	1		Ditto.
Seebchunder ...	"	1		May 1866.
Mear Allumkhee ...	"	1		March 1867.
Lazarus. ...	"	1		May 1866.
Myamoddun ..	"	1		March 1866.
Motee ...	"	1		Ditto 1867.

Return of Persons who paid Fees at the Settlement of Port Blair, on 24th April 1867.—(Concluded.)

Name of Payer.	Description of Fee.	Amount.	At what.	From what date paid.
Verdapachetty ...	Servant	3	In advance on the 1st of the month.	March 1865.
Kursetjee ...	"	1		August 1866.
Bhamanjee ...	"	3		October 1865.
Karderbeck ...	"	2		November 1865.
Machoo ...	"	1		Ditto.
Nagupapilley ...	"	1		April 1867.
Abdool Khan ...	"	1		February 1866.
Naramsung ...	"	1		December 1864.
L. Nudhorud ...	"	1		January 1866.
J. Michail ...	"	1		May 1865.
J. Bluett ...	"	1		March 1866.
J. Fremen ...	"	1		September 1865.
Moonshee ...	"	1		December 1864.
Napaul Lawree ...	"	1		Ditto.
Rajcaur ...	"	1		Ditto.
Monamissur ...	"	1		January 1865.
Herasing ...	"	1		December 1864.
Pitcharry ...	"	1		February 1865.
Johnson ...	"	1		April 1865.
Chinaman ...	"	1		May 1865.
Mahomed Ally ...	"	1		August 1865.
W. Jackson. ...	"	1		Ditto.
Shaik Kullen ...	"	1		November 1865.
C. Ross ...	"	1		January 1866.
Baroo ...	"	1		Ditto.
Aga Maglee ...	"	1		Ditto.
Nolasamy ...	"	1		Ditto.
Nandee Cowar ...	"	1		February 1866.
Joonas ...	"	3		Ditto 1867.
Mohursing ...	"	1		April 1866.
Mansing ...	"	1		Ditto.
Hamed Khan ...	"	1		Ditto.
Mahaben ...	"	1		Ditto.
Rajaram ...	"	1		Ditto.
W. Headkins ...	"	1		January 1866.
Payram ...	"	1		August 1866.
Thomas ...	"	1		Ditto.
Kengalee ...	"	1		Ditto.
J. White ...	"	1		October 1866.
Oomedgren ...	"	1		January 1867.
Peirbux ...	"	1		Ditto.
Sunkur Samara ...	"	8	Salt-makers.	December 1866.
Belasin ...	"	6		Ditto.
Goorochurn ...	"	1		June 1865.

No. 522, dated 7th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will furnish a return for the present year, showing every single rupee that has been received on account of licences, &c., fees for hired convict servants, petty fines levied on convicts or others, proceeds of rent of halls for bazar, fines and forfeitures should be shown; also all deductions from convicts, such as for barbers, &c.; fees paid for privilege of fishing; sums received on account of sale of vegetables, fruit and fruit trees, the produce of Government gardens, sale of cocoanuts or toddy, sale of fruit trees, sale of sandals or gaiters, sale of bamboos, leaves, canes, &c. There are probably other items for which fees have been received and credited—such as sale of milk. What becomes of the produce of the Aberdeen Model Farm, for instance sale of milk, straw, and so on?

2. Ferry fees are shown in the regular Local Fund Account I believe. A short time ago, goods to a considerable amount belonging to a screw steamer, were confiscated and sold. The proceeds realized should be entered; each item should be shown under its distinct head, in the following form.

3. A return is also requested showing how the proceeds of your miscellaneous fund are expended.

Return showing Miscellaneous Receipts and Disbursements of every description, received and disbursed during 1866-67, *and not shown in the Imperial Accounts.*

Receipts.						Disbursements.					
Date of Receipt.	Source of Revenue.	From whom received.	Amount.			Date of Disbursement.	On what account disbursed.	To whom disbursed.	Amount.		
			Rs.	As.	P.				Rs.	As.	P.

No. 152, dated 13th May, 1867.

From—Lieut. Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 522 of the 7th instant, calling for a return for the past year, showing all sums that have been received on account of local taxation of every kind; and in reply beg to forward the enclosed return, which will show all sums realized on every account: all other amounts not shown in this are exhibited in the imperial accounts.

Return showing Miscellaneous Receipts and Disbursements of every description, received and disbursed during 1866-67, *and not shown in the Imperial Accounts.*

Receipts.

Date of Receipt.		Source of Revenue.	From whom received	Amount. Rs.	As	P.
1866.		Balance in hand 30th April 1866 ..	... .	2,932	10	4
May	10	Self-supporter Fees ...	Overseer Bryant ...	28	0	0
"	13	Ditto ...	" Hawkins.	2	0	0
"	15	Ditto ...	" Arratoon.	18	0	0
"	16	Ditto ...	" Scott ..	1	0	0
"	17	Ditto ..	" Ditto ...	212	0	0
"	22	Ditto ...	" Jackson ..	9	0	0
"	"	Ditto ...	" Ditto ..	6	0	0
June	4	Ditto ...	" Hawkins	17	0	0
"	6	Ditto ...	" Arratoon.	4	0	0
"	"	Adjustment of Advance ...	Mr Lucas ..	100	0	0
"	7	Ditto ...	J. Robinson ..	55	0	0
"	"	Self-supporter Fees ...	Overseer Bryant ...	28	0	0
"	"	Ditto ...	" Scott	74	0	0
"	12	Ditto ...	" Jackson ..	6	0	0
"	"	Ditto ...	" Ditto ...	9	0	0
"	19	Ditto ...	" D'Cruz ...	170	0	0
July	2	Ditto ..	" Arratoon.	8	0	0
"	5	Ditto ...	" Hawkins.	18	0	0
"	6	Ditto ...	" D'Vay ...	1	0	0
"	9	Ditto ...	" Scott ...	85	0	0
"	"	Ditto ...	" Bryant ...	28	0	0
"	23	Ditto ...	" Jackson ..	6	0	0
"	"	Ditto ...	" Ditto ..	11	0	0
August	2	Ditto ...	" Arratoon.	9	0	0
"	"	Ditto ...	" Scott ..	87	0	0
"	"	Ditto ..	" Bryant .	29	0	0
"	"	Ditto ...	" Hawkins.	21	0	0
"	"	Ditto ...	" D'Vay ...	1	0	0
"	13	Ditto ...	" Bryant ..	3	0	0
"	27	Ditto ..	" D'Cruz...	89	0	0
"	28	Ditto ...	" Jackson ..	12	0	0
"	"	Ditto ...	" Jackson ..	7	0	0
"	"	Ditto ..	" JeetSingh	9	0	0
September	3	Ditto ...	" Hawkins.	21	0	0

Disbursements.

Date of Disbursement.		On what account disbursed.	To whom disbursed.	Amount. Rs.	As.	P.
1866.						
May	8	Extra reward of Vegetable and Flower Show	Exhibitors ..	10	0	0
"	17	Purchase of Maps for the use of Convict School ...	Newman & Co. ..	30	0	0
"	18	Advance recoverable ...	Mr. Lucas ..	200	0	0
"	23	Reward for catching a destructive monkey	A free Policeman ...	5	0	0
June	4	For teaching Settlement Band ...	J. Flynn, 2-24th Regiment	20	0	0
"	13	For cleaning Settlement Arms ..	Venkatasawmy ...	4	0	0
"	"	Advance on account of difference of a remittance for Tobacco (to be recovered).	Messrs. Ahmuty & Co. ...	25	12	0
"	19	Purchase of Glass-beads for present to Andamanese ...	Pachee ...	5	7	0
"	21	Chinese carpenters' labor on Christian Prisoners' Library ...	Ah Wong Mistry ...	120	12	0
July	4	For teaching Settlement Band ...	J. Flynn, 2-24th Regiment	20	0	0
"	9	For cleaning Settlement Arms ..	Venkatasawmy ...	4	0	0
"	19	For constructing Superintendent's Office Latrine ...	Ah Wong Mistry ...	155	12	0
August	6	For teaching Settlement Band ...	J. Flynn, 2-24th Regiment	20	0	0
"	"	For cleaning Settlement Arms ...	Venkatasawmy ...	4	0	0
"	"	For teak timber purchased for witness' shed	Ex.-Engineer ...	142	11	3
"	14	Advance recoverable ...	Mr. Pincott ...	50	0	0
"	15	Chinese carpenter's labor on Christian Prisoners' Library ...	Ah Wong Mistry ...	276	8	0
September	3	For teaching Settlement Band and oil ...	J. Flynn, 2-24th Regiment	20	12	0
"	"	For cleaning Settlement Arms ...	Venkatasawmy ...	4	0	0
"	12	Chinese carpenter's labor on witness' shed, and to be billed for on Ex.-Engineer ...	Ah Wong Mistry ..	152	4	0
"	"	Advance on account of Chinese carpenters' labor on Mess-house to be recovered ...	Ah Wong Mistry ...	50	12	0
October	2	For teaching Settlement Band ...	J. Flynn, 2-24th Regiment	20	0	0
"	9	For repair of Band Musical Instrument ...	Ditto ...	7	4	0
"	"	For cutting a tomb-stone for the late Mr. Kelton ...	Chunran ...	6	8	0
"	"	For cleaning Settlement Arms ...	Venkatasawmy ...	4	0	0

"	"	Ditto ...	" Scott ...	77	0	0
"	6	Ditto ...	" D'Vay ...	4	0	0
"	7	Ditto ...	" Bryant ..	29	0	0
"	8	Ditto ...	" Jackson ..	12	0	0
"	"	Ditto ...	" Ditto ...	13	0	0
"	21	Ditto ...	" Ditto ...	1	0	0
"	24	Ditto ...	" D'Cruz..	79	0	0
October	2	Ditto ...	" Hawkins.	21	0	0
"	4	Ditto ...	" JeetSingh	9	0	0
"	5	Ditto ...	" D'Vay ...	5	0	0
"	9	Ditto ...	" Bryant ..	136	0	0
"	"	Ditto ...	" Scott ...	77	0	0
"	10	Ditto ..	" Jackson ..	13	0.	0
"	16	Ditto ...	" Ditto ...	12	0	0
"	17	Ditto ...	" Ditto ...	1	0	0
"	25	Ditto ...	" D'Cruz. .	76	0	0
November	2	Ditto ...	" Hawkins.	21	0	0
"	5	Ditto ...	" Scott ...	78	0	0
"	"	Ditto ...	" JeetSingh	11	0	0
"	"	Ditto ...	" D'Vay ...	5	0	0
"	8	Ditto ...	" Bryant ...	88	0	0
"	9	Ditto ...	" Ditto ...	1	0	0
"	"	Ditto ..	" Jackson ..	12	0	0
"	10	Ditto ..	" Ditto ...	14	0	0
"	19	Ditto ..	" D'Cruz ,..	75	0	0
December	3	Adjustment of advance ..	" Hawkins.	21	0	0
"	"	Self-supporter Fees ...	Mrs. Pincott ...	50	0	0
"	5	Ditto ..	Overseer D'Vay ..	5	0	0
"	7	Ditto ...	" JeetSingh	11	0	0
"	"	Ditto ..	" Scott ...	80	0	0
"	"	Ditto ...	" Bryant ...	91	0	0
"	13	Ditto ...	" Jackson ..	14	0	0
"	"	Ditto ..	" Ditto ..	12	0	0
"	17	Ditto ...	" D'Cruz ...	75	0	0
1867.						
January	3	Ditto ...	" Hawkins.	21	0	0
"	4	Adjustment of advance ...	" D'Vay ...	5	0	0
"	"	Self-supporter Fees ...	" Mr. Lucas	100	0	0
"	7	Ditto ...	" Bryant ...	89	0	0
"	8	Ditto ...	" JeetSingh	12	0	0
"	"	Ditto ...	" Fernandez	12	0	0
"	"	Ditto ...	" Scott ...	82	0	0
"	16	Ditto ...	" Moung Moung	15	0	0
			Carried forward ...	5681	10	4

"	12	Advance for purchase of a table for the use of Convict School (recoverable) ...	Moonesawmy ...	5	4	0
"	"	Advance on account of Chinese carpenters' labor on Mess-house (to be recovered) ..	Ah Wong Mistry ...	89	5	0
"	"	Chinese carpenters' labor on witness' shed (to be billed for on Ex. Engineer) ...	Ditto ...	147	0	0
"	26	Purchase of a Globe lamp for the use of Superintendent's Office ...	Kadarbeg ...	8	0	0
November	6	Salvage, Teak Timber ...	Oo Kon Kyah ...	50	0	0
"	7	For teaching Settlement Band ...	J. Flynn, 2-24th Regiment.	20	0	0
"	"	For oil for the use of Band-room ...	Ditto ...	12	0	0
"	"	For cleaning Settlement Arms ...	Venkatasawmy ...	4	0	0
"	14	For shoeing Port Mouat Ponies ...	Hyder Allee ...	4	8	0
"	20	Chinese carpenters' labor on witness' shed (to be billed for on Ex. Engineer) ...	Ah Wong Mistry ...	262	8	0
"	"	Advance an account of Chinese carpenters' labor on Mess-house (to be recovered)..	Ditto ...	59	8	3
"	26	Purchase of Printing Press and Types ...	Messrs. Wyman & Co. ...	1,238	11	0
December	1	Compensation for damages to his garden by Settlement elephant ...	Nya Pouk ...	10	0	0
"	3	For teaching Settlement Band ...	J. Flynn, 2-24th Regiment.	20	0	0
"	5	Allowance for tailoring convict clothing for September, October, and November ...	Shaik Allee ...	9	0	0
"	22	For cleaning Settlement Arms ...	Venkatasawmy ...	4	0	0
1867.						
January	3	For teaching Settlement Band ...	J. Flynn, 2-24th Regiment.	20		
"	11	Repair of Musical Instruments ...	Shaik Allee, Bandman ..	2	0	0
"	14	Chinese carpenters' labor on witness' shed (to be billed for on Ex. Engineer) ...	Ah Wong Mistry ...	105	0	0
"	"	Chinese carpenters' labor on Revd. Worneford's house (to be billed for on Ex. Engineer) ..	Ditto ..	78	12	0
"	"	Purchase of 5 cast-iron benches ...	Messrs. Lackersteen & Co.	102	8	0
"	"	Pattern Towels of sorts for weaving shed...	Supdt. Kara Central Jail Factory ..	60	4	0
February	5	For teaching Settlement Band ...	Mr. Smith ...	20	0	0
"	6	For cleaning Settlement Arms for December 1866, and January 1867 ...	Venkatasawmy ..	8	0	0
March	8	For teaching Settlement Band ...	Mr. Smith ...	20	0	4
"	"	Repair of Musical Instruments ...	Ditto ...	5	15	0
"	"	For cleaning Settlement Arms for February and March 1867 ...	Venkatasawmy ...	8	0	0
"	30	Cost of a cook-house for Harbour Master and to be billed for on Ex. Engineer ..	Ex-Engineer ...	210	1	0
			Carried forward ..	3932	6	10

Return showing Miscellaneous Receipts and Disbursements of every description, received and disbursed during 1866-67, *and not shown in the Imperial Accounts.*—(Concluded)

Receipts.

Date of Receipt.		Source of Revenue.	From whom received.	Amount. Rs.	As.	P
			Brought forward ...	5681	10	4
1867. January	21	Self-supporter Fees ...	Overseer D'Cruz ...	78	0	0
February	2	Ditto ...	" Hawkins.	21	0	0
"	4	Ditto ...	" D'Vay .	6	0	0
"	5	Ditto ...	" JeetSingh	12	0	0
"	8	Ditto ...	" Bryant .	88	0	0
"	9	Ditto ...	" Scott ...	89	0	0
"	18	Ditto ...	" D'Cruz .	69	0	0
"	25	Ditto ...	" Moung Moung.	15	0	0
March	2	Ditto ...	" Hawkins	21	0	0
"	8	Ditto ...	" Scott ...	91	0	0
"	18	Ditto ...	" D'Cruz	71	0	0
April	2	Ditto ...	" Hawkins.	22	0	0
"	3	Ditto ...	" D'Vay ..	7	0	0
"	5	Ditto ...	" Bryant ...	88	0	0
"	"	Ditto ...	" Fernandez	12	0	0
"	10	Ditto ...	" Scott ...	90	0	0
"	13	Adjustment of advance ...	" President of Mess.	50	0	0
			Total, ..	6511	10	4

Disbursements.

Date of Disbursement.		On what account disbursed.	To whom disbursed.	Amount. Rs.	As.	P.
			Brought forward .	3932	6	10
1867. April	5	For teaching Settlement Band ..	Mr. Smith ...	20	0	0
"	"	Purchase of Seeds ..	Messrs. E. Jones & Co. ...	51	0	0
			Total, ..	4,003	6	10

No. 571, dated 14th May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to enquire whether, in the return of miscellaneous receipts forwarded with your No. 152 of 13th instant, the fees shown in the return submitted with your No. 95 of 4th instant are included; also whether the proceeds of fisheries, Government gardens, and Aberdeen Stock Farm are included in the miscellaneous receipts received with your No. 152.

No. 167, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In acknowledging the receipt of your Memo., marked urgent, No. 571 of this day's date enquiring whether, in the return of miscellaneous receipts forwarded with my Memo. No. 152 of the 13th instant, the fees shown in the return submitted with my Memo. No. 95 of 4th idem are included, I have the honor to state that they are not. The return with No. 95 is a return of fees paid for convict servants; the return with my No. 152 is for fees paid for or by convict cultivators. You enquire also whether the proceeds of fisheries, Government gardens, and Aberdeen Stock Farm are included in the miscellaneous receipts received with my Memo. No. 152, in reply to which I beg to state that they are not: these items of receipts are accounted for in imperial accounts.

No. 585, dated 15th May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to state, with reference to the account received of your Miscellaneous Fund, that it will be necessary to show on what account the several items were paid in. You have simply shown the names of the payers and the amounts; this it was that I took exception to, when inspecting your office books.

It will be necessary for you to prepare as soon as possible fresh accounts for 1866-67 which will show clearly all receipts and disbursements,

For 1. An Imperial Account.
„ 2. A Local Fund Account,
„ 3. Miscellaneous Fund Account.

This last statement should be in detail, that is, each separate source of revenue, such as the proceeds of the Aberdeen Stock Farm should be shown by itself. You should have these accounts ready by the return of the "Arracan."

No. 514, dated 6th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to ask if there is any chance of being able to get wood for freight for our vessels, which return empty to Rangoon. Could it not also be supplied as ballast instead of stone to chartered vessels returning to Calcutta, Rangoon, or Moulmein, where firewood is scarce and dear, and sold on Government account?

2. Would not cross-cut saws, well greased, answer better than axes in cutting up felled timber?

No. 150, dated 13th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 514 of the 6th instant, enquiring if there is any chance of being able to get any wood for freight for vessels which return empty to Burmah; as also if wood could be supplied as ballast instead of stone to chartered vessels returning to Calcutta or Burmah, suggesting that, as firewood is scarce there, that wood for such purpose might also be there supplied.

2. As regards the provision of wood for shipment in the way you suggest, I could undertake this if permitted to extend the Forest Department Establishment. Any amount of wood, either of valuable kinds or of the commonest sort for firewood for market sale, can of course be collected if sufficient labor be supplied; and taking hard wood with soft, valuable with common, and having all this suitably cut off in large or small logs, handy pieces, or split, I calculate that to girdle and kill, fell, cut, drag, carry, weigh, and stack this wood, would take the labor of one elephant and 50 convicts for the collection of 10 tons per diem.

3. Having referred this subject to Mr. Darwood, the Harbour Master, I learn from him *vide* copy of his communication attached, that he doubts whether commanders of vessels would take wood as ballast on account of risk of white ants, especially to timber-built vessels.

4. With regard to para. 2 of your letter as to the use of cross-cut saws instead of axes, Mr. Darwood in his para. 2, considers the latter preferable to the former. From experience I can also say that cross-cut saws do not work easy, even when greased, in cutting timber.

No. 19, dated 9th May, 1867.

From—C. DARWOOD, ESQ., *Harbor Master, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

With reference to Memo. No. 180 of this day's date, I have the honor to state that timber, if it can be procured in sufficient quantity, would answer very well for ballasting; but it would have to be stacked in places where it would not be accessible to white ants, as I have great doubt, if commanders, especially of wooden vessels, would consent to take in jungle wood for fear of breeding the white ants aboard.

I think axes would be preferable for cutting felled timber as cross-cut saws do not work through unseasoned timber easily.

No. 479, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will have the goodness to forward one copy of your report on Forest Administration for 1865-66, also (unless the report includes the information) a Memo. showing what has been done annually by each Officer appointed to superintend the forest operations since the operations commenced in 1863; that is to say, the number of trees or tons supplied for conversion into posts or timber should be stated, the number of trees girdled annually, and so on.

3. What are the number of trees now standing in the forests which have been girdled, and where are they to be seen?

4. Full detailed information is required as to the cash outlay and estimated cost in material and labor supplied for each year 1863-64, 65, 66, 67. Convict labor to be shown separate at 4 annas a man per diem.

5. Has the forest operations under the Forest Officer been of any service in keeping the steam saw going, or has the timber for that mill been supplied by prisoners worked under the Executive Engineer's own orders?

6. State the number of logs and approximate quantity in tons furnished by the Forest Department to the saw mill, and actually landed in Chatham Island for each year from 1863.

7. State the number of logs and approximate quantity of timber furnished by the P. W. Department from the forests here, and which were obtained by prisoners worked under the orders of the P. W. Department.

8. With reference to the demand for labor, state the number of convicts you could continuously furnish, exclusively for forest operations.

9. State whether labouring in the forests affects the prisoners' health appreciably in an injurious manner.

State whether they could be employed throughout the year, or only in certain months; if the latter, name the months.

10. Can iron-wood sleepers be obtained, and in what quantity could they be brought to the water's edge in a spot suitable for shipment; and at what cost, valuing convict labor employed at 4 annas a day for each man, throughout all the operations, and including a fair rate of the higher paid Forest Establishment?

11. By what date could you have 500 iron-wood sleepers ready at the water's edge; and what establishment would you require to procure them. State dimensions and at what rate could you afford to sell them so as to cover all and every expense.

12. When can you have 50 pieces of billet wood ready fit for gun stocks?

13. State, in your opinion, in how many years 100 men employed daily could make a road, say 10 feet wide, through the three Islands from north to south, with, say a dozen cross-roads to the sea on either side; and state what advantage the work would be when done.

14. Finally, please state the estimated cost of such a work at the probable *real* cost of prison labor here; say twenty rupees a month.

No. 172, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No 479 of the 4th instant, calling for a report on the forest administration of this Settlement for 1865-66, as also for

an amount of detailed information, the preparation of which will be an elaborate business, and which, in view of the numerous other reports which I have to complete before your return to Rangoon, I shall not have time to do justice to either as regards the Forest Department itself, or the several officers who had been in charge thereof, from whose records since 1863 the information you require will have to be carefully compiled.

2. I therefore propose, with your concurrence, not to attempt this report before your departure, but shall much prefer, if there be no objection, to forward it to Rangoon by the next mail leaving the Settlement for that Port.

No. 398, dated 27th April, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that I observed in Assistant Surgeon Gamack's annual report, he quotes the late Dr. Morton's suggestion to you, that all prisoners should each be provided with a pair of leather gaiters, *as well* as a pair of sandals. I request you will state—

1*st.*—How far this recommendation was carried out?

2*nd.*—What was the result?

3*rd.*—What arrangements are now in existence for keeping up the supply of both sandals and gaiters?

4*th.*—The quantity of each description you have in store on this date.

5*th.*—I do not clearly understand whether it was Dr. Morton's wish that all prisoners should wear these articles, or only those employed in jungle-clearing.

6*th.*—And whether they were to be worn in the dry season as well as the wet.

7*th.*—As Assistant Surgeon Gamack has omitted to notice the result of the use of the above articles, please obtain the present Senior Medical Officer's opinion on the subject, and favor me with a full report on the whole question for the Chief Commissioner's information.

No. 114, dated 7th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Chief Commissioner's Office letter No. 398 of the 27th ultimo, in which you mention that you observe that Assistant Surgeon Gamack, in his annual report, quotes the late Dr. Morton's suggestions to me that all prisoners should each be furnished with a pair of leather gaiters, *as well* as a pair of sandals.

In reply to this portion of your letter under acknowledgment, I beg to refer you to para. 5 of my letter No. 214 of the 6th March last, to the address of Captain C. P. Hildebrand, Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, copy of which I attach for ready reference. I now proceed to afford information on the seven points you note as requested :—

1*st.*—How far this recommendation was carried out?	You will observe that 2,000 pairs of sandals were received in October last.
2*nd.*—What was the result?	These not having been received till towards the close of the S. W. monsoon, the result can hardly be given for the past wet season.
3*rd.*—What arrangements are now in existence for keeping up the supply of both sandals and gaiters?	Four thousand nine hundred and seventy-nine pairs of sandals have since been received, and are now about to be issued to those convicts to whom such issue is considered necessary.
4*th.*—The quantity of each description you have in store on this date.	The number of pairs of sandals in store this day, 27th April, is 1,350.
5*th.*—I do not clearly understand whether it was Dr. Morton's wish that *all* prisoners should wear these articles, or only those employed in jungle-clearing.	The suggestion for the wearing of sandals was my own and not Dr. Morton's. I proposed to him that they should be issued to convicts working upon swampy, thorny, or sharp stony ground, and in jungle clearance.
6*th.* Whether they were to be worn in the dry season as well as the wet?	It was not intended that the sandals should be worn in the dry season, but it was intended that any convict, who desired to purchase sandals at such time, might do so at the fixed rate.
7*th.*—As Assistant Surgeon Gamack has omitted to notice the result of the use of the above articles, please obtain the present Senior Medical Officer's opinion on the subject.	In accordance with your request that I will obtain the present Senior Medical Officer's opinion on the subject, I beg now to attach copy of a letter to my address from Surgeon Rean, from which you will observe that he

considers that sandals will prove serviceable only to a limited extent, and that gaiters are only partially serviceable. He recommends that *boots* should be made which will cover the feet and leg, and which might be manufactured, he considers, here. These I will undertake to have made, as far as I am able, on the Settlement from the hide and skins of the animals slaughtered in the Commissariat Department, though the sheep skins will, I fear, be of no value, as I have no tanning establishment. I have on the Settlement 16 native chucklers, who I can put to this work; but it will be somewhat difficult to obtain a suitable pattern of boot, and I should be glad if one could be forwarded to me, as all the chucklers here are very ordinary workmen indeed.

Extract from letter No. 214, *dated Port Blair, 6th March,* 1867, *from* LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair, to Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

5. "Referring to the 4th para. of Mr. Secretary Bayley's letter No. 1746, I am not aware that any *gaiters* or *kuddanus* were recommended by Dr. Morton, unless the late Senior Medical Officer refers to sandals as worn by the natives of India; if so, I have the honor to report that 2,000 pairs of the above patterns to suit men, both of the up-country and the south of India, were sent for on my suggestion to Dr. Morton, and which were received in October last, and supplied to all convicts who were employed at work on which it was considered advisable for them to wear such protection."

No. 853, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—W. H. REAN, ESQ., M. D., *Senior Medical Officer, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

With reference to your Memo. No. 46, enclosing Memo. No. 398 from the Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, requesting my opinion on the result of sandals issued to a certain number of prisoners, I have the honor to state that I am unable, from my short residence here, to answer the question at present, as I have had very little opportunity of examining any gangs of men who have worn them.

2. I have the honor, however, to state regarding their use that I think they will prove serviceable to a limited extent only, and that I am more in favor of supplying the men engaged in road clearing, timber felling, stone cutting, working in swamps or similar occupations with some description of protection for the feet and legs; for this purpose sandals are of little use, and gaiters only partially fulfil the duty. A boot, which should cover the foot and leg, would answer the purpose, and might, I think, be manufactured here from the skins and hides of the animals slaughtered. I don't consider it necessary that men engaged in lighter occupations, and not likely to meet with scratches, pricks, leech bites, &c., should have any protection.

3. My reasons for recommending boots are that from the asthenic condition of the prisoners and the climate here, all sores have a tendency to spread and defy treatment, producing the most frightful result often from the merest puncture or scratch, the use of boots would protect the limbs, and, in numerous cases, be the means of keeping a man at his work who otherwise would be in hospital.

4. Sandals only protect the sole of the foot and a portion of the side; and from my experience of their use, I know that their structure is such as occasionally to cause sores by the rubbing of the thin straps against the foot, and these trifling sores might degenerate into formidable ulcers.

No. 515, dated 6th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to enquire whether the convict prisoners employed in jungle clearing are required to pay for the sandals and gaiters issued to them as a protection to their feet and legs.

2. I request you will be good enough to expedite the sample of these articles as noted in my No. 398, dated 27th April, 1867.

3. Will you be good enough to state what becomes of the sheep skins and hides and horns of cattle which die and are slaughtered?

No. 11, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 515, dated the 6th instant, in which, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, you enquire whether the convict prisoners employed in jungle clearing are required to pay for the sandals and gaiters issued to them as a protection to their feet and legs. In reply, I have the honor to state that the convicts were not hitherto required to pay for sandals, *i. e.*, for the first batch received; but I now propose to make a charge for sandals offering them at 8 annas 6 pie per pair, which is half what they have cost Government, *viz.*, 1 rupee 1 anna per pair. No gaiters have as yet been obtained.

2. In reply to your para. 2, I beg to state that your communication No. 398 of the 27th ultimo that I received, did not contain application for the submission of samples of sandals and gaiters. I beg now to forward herewith samples of two pairs of sandals obtained from Madras; those marked I, are the ordinary patterns used in Madras; those marked II, are the ordinary Punjaub patterns, having heel straps, and are also much in use by the inhabitants of other parts of Northern India.

3. With regard to your enquiry in para. 3 as to what becomes of sheep skins, bullock hides and horns, I beg to attach copy of letter to my address No. 97 of 9th instant, from the Sub-Assistant Commissary General, which affords the information required.

No. 97, dated 9th May, 1867.

From—Lieut A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

In reply to your Memo. No. 35, dated , I have the honor to inform you that the sheep skins and bullock hides are sent to Rangoon for sale, on behalf of Government. The horns, which are very small and valueless, are left in the heads of the bullock, and sold with them to parties purchasing meat, &c.

No 542, dated 9th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to observe that from the muster roll of the 12th Division at Ross there were, on the 1st instant, 186 prisoners: of these—

3 were laboring convicts,
65 were self-supporters,
100 were servants,
18 were gangsmen, and
1 Overseer,

So that excluding the Bazaar Sergeant who, it is presumed, looks after the self-supporting shop-keepers, it would appear there were no less than 19 officials to superintend three laboring convicts costing Rs. 150 a month, thus—

		Rs.
1	Overseer	50
1	Division Gangsman	12
3	Sub-Gangsmen @ 6	18
14	Toledars @ 5	70
		150

This appears a very unsatisfactory state of things; but as it may be capable of explanation, I reserve comment until I receive your explanation.

No. 134, dated 10th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 542 of the 9th instant, in which you observe that there were, on the 1st instant, only three laboring convicts in the 12th Division, to superintend whom 19 officials are entertained.

2. In reply I beg to state that you will perceive from the accompanying muster roll,* a duplicate of which was handed to the mustering Officer on the 1st instant, that there were 171 laboring convicts in this Division. The number of servants is 53, and not 100 as calculated by you, perhaps, from the trade column which shows the trades of convicts at their native lands. For easy reference, the servants have been marked in the enclosed roll thus × and the laboring prisoners are marked with the letter L.

* Requested to be returned.
51 Males who were present at muster and 120 Females.

3. With regard to the employment of the 18 gangsmen, I beg to give the following detail of their daily work :—

2 are given to supervise the works under construction in the 2nd Division.
3 are in charge of the Female Barrack, who take day and night watch.
2 are employed about South Point and the village, in order that the same may be kept clean, and that nothing goes wrong.
1 is generally employed in having building materials collected, and accompanying small parties to the jungle for the same.
2 are placed in charge of the grain and are charged with the weighing and distribution of the same to the laboring women for the purpose of grinding, and, when done, receiving the same for issue to the wholesale Bunniahs.
1 is employed in gathering together all laboring females for work, seeing that they are correctly made over to the work-men, at the cotton shed, tallying them also on return at stated hours.
1 is employed as hospital gangsman, whose duty it is to see the sick taken into hospital, and waiting upon them until inspected by the Doctor.
2 look to the constructions and repairs of Barracks and other Government temporary buildings not attached to Divisions.
1 sub-Division gangsman is Mohurrir or Clerk to the Division, and keeps the Division records in the Hindoostanee language.
1 is employed in the issue of thatch leaves, canes, and other temporary building materials.
1 sub-Division gangsman assists the Division gangsman in the supervision of all works, and the Division itself.
1 is the Division gangsman of the Division who supervises the works, and looks to the working of the Division.

18

4. The Overseer of this Division, besides the divisional work, has to attend the Superintendent's office work. He should not, therefore, be included in the official staff of the Division, but simply in charge.

No. 558, dated 11th May, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request you will have the goodness to favor him with a memo. shewing—

1. Quantity of grass obtained from Barren Island during 1866-67.
2. What was the quality ?
3. What do you recommend regarding procuring a supply of grass from Barren Island.
4. What are the property* of obtaining a supply during the ensuing twelve months for the Settlement ?
5. What quantity of guinea grass, the product of the Settlement, do you expect will be available within the ensuing twelve months as fodder ?

No. 119, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—Lieut. A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to state for your information, in reply to your letter No. 557, dated 11th May, that I obtained 43,000lbs. of grass from Barren Island.

2. The quality was good, but the stalks rather hard, it being what is called bamboo grass.

3. I enclose copy of my letter No. 9, dated 5th April, to the Superintendent, recommending that we should not attempt to get any more from thence and giving my reasons.

4. I am obtaining fodder from Burmah for the ensuing twelve months.

5. The quantity of guinea grass available in the Settlement is not sufficient to be worth drying and stacking, but only for giving fresh to the cattle. I recommend that a strong gang of coolies be sent regularly to clear and plant about 300 acres of land, which could be done within twelve months. We could then dispense with obtaining fodder from abroad, and thus effect an immense saving to Government.

No. 9, dated 5th April, 1867.

From—Lieut. A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

In reference to your No. 2, dated 2nd April 1867, calling on me for information required by the Chief Commissioner relative to fodder obtained at Barren Island, I have the honor to inform you that the average weight of the bales of hay procured from thence was about 86lbs.

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* Sic in Copy.

2. I do not think we shall be able to obtain a supply of fodder from Barren Island sufficient for our requirements, especially now that the increased demand for meat for convicts will double the number of cattle, and triple the number of sheep required for slaughter.

3. The difficulties in the way of utilizing the Island are great. There is no anchorage except for small vessels like the 2nd Settlement schooner, and even for them it is anything but safe. The landing of stores and shipping fodder consequently is a matter of considerable difficulty, and entails loss of time; and in the case of a steamer, great expenditure of coals, as steam has to be kept up. It is obvious the schooners could not do the work, for it would take about eighty trips of one to bring as much as we require.

4. The fact of there being no water to speak of on the Island, throws an insuperable obstacle in the way, unless a condenser could be left there for use every season. (It could not be taken backwards and forwards.)

5. Six presses and 120 men working for three or four months would about exhaust the supply of grass on the Island, and would not provide us with more than half our requirements. These men would require cover to be provided for them, and provisions conveyed thither.

6. I had at one time great hopes that we could supply ourselves entirely from Barren Island; but having visited the Island three times, and, on one occasion having stayed there a week and seen the capabilities of the place and the working of all our arrangements, and finally the result in the quantity of fodder obtained, I record my opinion with much reluctance that it will not be any saving or advantage to Government attempting to procure any more from thence.

7. I have indented on the Commissariat Officer, Rangoon, for fodder for the monsoon. In the month of January last, I wrote for 3,60,000lbs., which I increased last month to 7,00,000lbs.

No. 472, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Executive Commissariat Officer, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request you will submit a return of the number of gunny bags (or what is the same supposing each bag holds two maunds, the number of maunds of rice divided by two) received in this Settlement for the past five years, what the bags cost each, the number sent back to Calcutta or elsewhere to be re-filled, the number issued for prisoners, and the number you have now in store.

No. 78, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—Lieut. A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to enclose a return of gunny bags received here for five years as called for in your Memo. No. 472, dated 29th April, 1867.

No. 412, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to enquire whether the time has not now arrived when free residents should pay a moderate rent for their houses sufficient to cover, say the interest on the cost, say at 2½, which percentage would cover the cost of keeping them in repair.

No. 58, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge receipt of Memo. No. 412 of this day's date, enquiring, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, whether the time has not now arrived when free residents should pay a moderate rent for their houses. In reply the undersigned has the honor to state that in his opinion it would not be fair to the free residents on this Settlement to introduce at the present time rent on the quarters they occupy, for it must be borne in mind that it has always been an understood thing that free residents taking Government employ at Port Blair, would be allowed the indulgence of free quarters, and several have come here in anticipation of such indulgence.

2. Should it be desired at any time to introduce a rent charge on Government quarters, occupied by the residents, the undersigned is of opinion that some preliminary notice of intention to levy such charge should be given, say 12 months, in order that any Government servants might have the opportunity of seeking employment elsewhere in view of such a charge being made and anticipating difficulty thereby, desire to effect a removal or exchange to other Government situations to India or elsewhere.

3. Such a charge, *viz.*, 2½ per cent. which might probably keep the quarters occupied by the superior Officers in repair, would not be perhaps so much felt; though in view of the

Government tax that has recently fallen upon them, it is submitted that it would be time enough to charge rent on officers' quarters when the levying of such tax has ceased; but the undersigned fears that a rent charge for quarters on the Government employés of more humble position in the Settlement, and in view of the many expenses they are put to, particularly those who have families would be levied upon, and for this cause the undersigned would respectfully urge for the consideration of the Chief Commissioner, that this class of the community may, at all events, be exempted from rent charges for the present.

4. It should be remarked that the free quarters for the European, Eurasian, and Native Clerks have yet to be built, and that in the meantime the greater portion of this class have been living, some of them very uncomfortably, in a variety of make-shift dwellings.

No. 325, dated 19th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that, having visited several of the stations, I desire to make a few remarks on several points. I first visited South Point, where there has been a good deal done in the way of clearing. I should like to know the estimated quantity in acres which may be considered as cleared. Though some of the logs remain to be cut up, and the ground yet requires to be stumped, there will still be a considerable plot available to be planted during the coming season. I should like to learn if it is your intention to have the available ground at this place planted next season, and with what. I wish to be informed why the clearing in this direction has been stopped. The land between South Point and Aberdeen appears to be making very slow progress. I request you will inform me what the length, breadth, and thickness of this land will be when finished; how long this work has been in operation; how many men (including petty officers) have been employed on it; that is, the daily average since it was commenced up to the present time; and by what date you expect it will be finished.

The bund at Phœnix Bay, I understand, was first finished about a year ago; but from want of proper outlets for the water, the bund was overflooded and burst in the middle. It was subsequently repaired; but up to this date the sluices, which are required to make the bund of any value, have not been put up, and, consequently, all the labor expended is useless. I request you will state when you expect the sluice gates will be put up.

This is a most important work, as the ground reclaimed will, it is expected, be excellent paddy ground, and now all rice has to be imported.

I wish to know whether the ground occupied by self-supporters has been in every instance cleared by themselves, without any aid from Government convicts.

At Haddo, I think it very doubtful if the hospital now being built there can prove healthy, until the dense jungle to the south has been cleared sufficiently to allow a free circulation of air. At present, there are only from 10 to 15 men on the work of clearing. At this rate, it will take half a century to make any impression. Cannot more convicts be employed on this work?

At Chatham, in one of the hospitals, I saw four rows of sick prisoners, and more were waiting outside for admittance. Cannot some of the sick be removed to Ross Island, where the hospitals are not so crowded?

The Government gardens at Mount Harriet are much neglected. One coffee tree (of which there are only some half dozen) has apparently been killed from white-ants having surrounded the stem with their nests. The pine apple plantation was also much neglected; the small shoots which surround the fruit prevent it coming to perfection; whereas if the shoots were removed and kept in a bed to be transplanted (on the fall of the monsoon rains), it would be a real advantage to the Settlement. Guinea grass and plantains appear to thrive most excellently everywhere. Cannot old men be made useful in transplanting these two most useful things in every available spot (of which there is no lack) instead of sweeping down Harriet Road, in which useless work I saw some dozen old men employed this morning? I observe, from the distribution book at Mount Harriet, that Mr. Berrill has two convicts there at his disposal; does he pay for these men, and how much, and at what rate?

Until I receive your distribution roll for Ross Island, I am prevented making some remarks on this station; but there is one point on which I request your opinion. I am informed that there is a class of self-supporters married convicts, who do not earn their living in a very creditable way; in fact, it is asserted that they live by the prostitution of their wives. Cannot self-supporters be made to earn an honest livelihood, and cannot it be ascertained beyond a doubt that they do so?

No. 29, dated 25th April, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 325 of the 19th instant, in which, by direction of the Chief Commissioner British Burmah, you make a few remarks

consequent on your visit to several of the stations in the Settlement on which you request information, which I will afford you *seriatim*

South Point.

2. You request to know the estimate in acres which may be considered cleared.

Number of acres, 21.

3. You wish to learn if it is my intention to have the available part of the newly cleared ground at the station planted next year, and with what?

It is my purpose to plant out such portion of this ground as is sufficiently cleared and protected from the sea, with paddy, of which I have a stock of young shoots in hand ready to be put out when the rains fall about the middle of May.

4 You wish to be informed why the clearing in this direction has been stopped?

Clearing was commenced in February 1866, but temporarily stopped in consequence of labor being required on more urgent works such as extending the jetty, tank and well digging, constructing strand road in front of village, and cutting posts and pullies urgently required on Ross Island for barracks, &c.

5 & 6 Remarking that the bund at South Point and Aberdeen appears to be making slow progress, you request information as to the length, breadth, and thickness, and the time when this bund will be finished; as to how long this work has been in operation; how many men employed on it *i.e.*, daily average since commenced; and by what date I can expect it to be finished?

Taking into consideration the number of men employed, my own opinion has been that the progress of the work has been very creditable to Overseer Scott. Of the actual bund or sea-wall, west from the jetty, 416 running feet have been completed with an average breadth of 15 feet and an average depth of 6 feet.

To complete this work 2,700 running feet will remain to be done with an average breadth of 15 feet and an average depth of 6 feet.

The work was commenced on the 20th of March last, and, on average, 45 labouring convicts and two toledars, have been employed on it up to date.

As the work progresses, it will be much heavier than the commencement of it, in consequence of the distance earth will have to be carried, cutting down and removing trees and their roots, and the way the high tides will also interfere in the progress of this work. Under the circumstances I cannot say positively when the wall will be finished. Taking the datum of the completion of 416 yards in a month, the remainder might be expected to be completed (giving the same number of convicts for work) in about six months and a half; but seeing how much heavier the work will be at the further end, I should say that the work will be completed in about nine months.

Phœnix Bay.

7 & 8 You request information for sluice gates to be put up for the bund at Phœnix Bay.

This work was undertaken by the late Executive Engineer, who, it was expected, would have completed the same. As he did not, however, do so, I caused an "overflow" to be cut in the rock at one extremity, which has temporarily answered the purpose. Since, then, I have frequently endeavoured to obtain Chinese carpenters (not having any convict carpenters sufficiently skilled for the work) to construct sluices; but they have always declined to have anything to do with the work on account of the feverishness of the locality. At length, a few days prior to your arrival here, I was enabled to make arrangements with Chinese carpenters, and I expect that small valve sluices (not with gates) will be done within 15 days. You will observe from my report to Government under head "Swamps" that it has always been my hope to cultivate paddy thereon.

9. You wish to be informed whether the ground now occupied by self-supporters, has been in every instance cleared by self-supporters without any aid from Government convicts.

All ground has been cleared for self-supporters by themselves, without the aid of Government convicts.

HADDO.

10. Stating your doubts as to the healthiness of the new hospital site at Haddo, you request to be informed if more convicts cannot be employed on the work for clearing the jungle to the south of that building, to allow a free circulation of air.

The site for the new hospital at Haddo was selected by the late Senior Medical Officer of this Settlement, Dr. Morton, the late Executive Engineer, F. C. Marshall, Esq., and myself. The Executive Engineer informed the Committee that it was imperative that the hospital should be built in its running length. Upon the site only on which it has been erected, could its running length be found, and then only with considerable excavations.

More convicts can and will be employed in the clearance of jungle to the south of the new hospital.

The reason that there were so few on the day of your inspection was, that a large gang of convicts were of necessity engaged in moving the Steamer "Diana."

CHATHAM ISLAND.

11. Observing the number of sick in hospital at Chatham Island, you enquire whether some of them cannot be removed to Ross Island Hospital.

I have referred the matter to the Senior Medical Officer, and I copy his reply below :—

"In acknowledging the receipt of your letter "No. 20 of the 23rd instant, requesting to learn, "for the information of the Secretary to the "Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, whether "some of the sick at Chatham cannot be "removed to Ross Island Hospital, I have the "honor to state in reply that, when the new "Hospital here is finished, some such arrange-"ment can be made if necessary. At present I "have no room on Ross Island for the sick of "out-stations other than those for which the "hospitals here are intended.

"Haddo Hospital is nearly finished; and, as "soon as the building is made over to me, the "sick of that station will no longer be forward-"ed to Chatham; and, consequently, the over-"crowding of the sick will cease on that "Island."

MOUNT HARRIET.

12. Referring to your visit to Mount Harriet, you consider the Government garden much neglected, and coffee plants were apparently being killed by white-ants. You note that the pine apples and plantains are also much neglected, and that the small shoots, abounding on the plants surrounding the fruit, prevent their coming to perfection; whereas if the shoots were removed and kept in a bed to be transferred on the fall of the rains, it would be a real advantage to the Settlement.

I regret to consider the Government gardens at Mount Harriet much neglected. You saw the gardens at the worst time, that is after the cold weather crops have been got from them, and *before* the wet weather crops appear. At this particular season of the year little or nothing is done beyond the collection of weeds, roots, leaves, &c., for manure, the ground being baked so hard, as it is now, by the excess of hot weather. It is my custom not to turn up the ground for the wet-weather crops until it has been somewhat softened by the first rains of the S. W. monsoon.

The coffee plants that you refer to are 30 in number. They were my private property obtained from Penang as an experiment; some have already borne fruit.

I regret, also, that you consider the pine apples too, as much neglected. I have never allowed small shoots to be removed from fruiting plants as I have been given to understand that to do so "bleeds" the fruit. As I have no knowledge whatever of horticulture, I am glad

to take advantage of the suggestions that you make to me in this respect.

I forward herewith a specimen of pine apples from Mount Harriet Government Gardens, taken haphazard, which, I think for splendid growth and flavour, may vie with the best I have ever seen in the Rangoon market.

13. Remarking on Guinea grass and plantains thriving most excellently, you request to know whether old men cannot be employed in transplanting the same, in any and every available spot, instead of sweeping down Harriet Road, in which you observed some six men employed.

The Guinea grass that I have introduced, and the plantains which are mostly from stock that I have obtained from British Burmah, I am glad that you consider thriving

The six old men whom you found sweeping the Mount Harriet Road, can be made available as suggested by you, in transplanting the Guinea grass and plantains.

Guinea grass, I may remark, is being almost daily planted out; and it is a standing order of mine amongst the gardeners, that they should transplant plantain suckers.

The useless road sweeping, which you observed, is only occasionally resorted to. On the occasion referred to, it had been ordered by the overseer of "Mount Harriet" on hearing of your approach and wishing to make the place clean.

14. I observe from the distribution book at "Mount Harriet," Mr. Berill has two convicts there at his disposal; does he pay for these men and at what rate?

Mr. Berill pays for these men at the rate of annas 2-6 per diem, according to Settlement Rules, copy attached.

15. I am informed there is a class of self-supporters—married convicts—who do not earn their living in a very creditable way; in fact, it is asserted that they live by the prostitution of their wives. Cannot self-supporters be made to earn an honest livelihood; and cannot it be ascertained, beyond a doubt, that they do so?

The Assistant Superintendent has been requested to forward you all distribution rolls. I proceed to remark upon the point on which you desire my opinion.

The discreditable mode of living mentioned by you, as existing amongst the married convicts, is much to be regretted; but it does not appear to me to be possible to prevent prostitution when carried on privately. For public decency's sake alone, if such were openly done, I would adopt means to punish the offenders; that is all that I think I can do in my public capacity.

It has never been brought to my notice before you made the assertion that the wives of self-supporters obtained their livelihood by prostitution only. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the self-supporters fairly apply themselves to their authorized trades. I do not mean to assert that prostitution does not exist, yet it is evident, from what I have above stated, that the effort to prevent the practice might be the cause of still more deplorable vice than that which you have referred to, and would injure, in my opinion, the Settlement on this Island, to which the married self-supporters are of great use.

The Superintendent notifies below for general information the terms under which convicts will be supplied for hire as servants to the Officers of the Settlement, free residents, and others.

REMARKS.

Convict servants to be invariably engaged from the 1st of the month; and as the convict subsistence is payable in advance by Government, the employers must similarly deposit the convicts' pay at the Superintendent's office each month in advance in the same way. In addition to the above, a monthly fee of rupee 1 to Government will be charged to all employers of convicts. No broken period will be allowed.

Superintendent, not limited.		
Superintending Surgeons ...	Rs. 6 0	each.
Commanding Officers, Chaplains, and Captains ...	„ 5 0	„
Subalterns and Assistant Surgeons...	„ 4 0	„
Subordinate Heads of Office and free Overseers ...	„ 3 0	„
Warrant Officers, Apothecaries, and Free Tradesmen ...	„ 3 0	„

Convicts employed as servants are to be paid as directed above on the same rates as

those sanctioned for their subsistence on the divisional grades they are taken from. No fining is to be allowed from the above subsistence.

Employers are not prohibited from adding a small allowance to deserving servants for their employment in addition to their subsistence as provided above. This should not exceed Rs 3 per month.

To pay half the wages of the convict (who will be supplied from the third class only,) Government paying the other half.

Staff, Medical, Marine, and other Government Free Clerks' Convict, who are 1st Class Bazar Tradesmen	2 0 each.
Convict Overseer and others in similar situations ...	2 0 „
Dressers, Christian Convicts, Gangsmen, and married self-supporters,	1 0 „

Fining also prohibited.

No convict services will be given, unless conveniently to be spared. Field and garden labor will be supplied, if available, at two and a half annas per diem per man.

Each Government Officer, not having a boat crew or office orderlies, will be allowed three chowkeedars (convicts) free of charge.

No. 379, dated 25th April, 1867.

Memo from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 25 of yesterday's date, and begs to refer you to para. 16, Sections "D" and "E."

D.—As the hulk "Erin-go-Bragh" would not be wanted, the undersigned thinks she ought at once to be brought here, and placed at the disposal of the Sub Assistant Commissary General, who is much in want of storage accommodation.

E.—The undersigned's query under this head has been apparently misunderstood. The undersigned wishes to know what the actual establishment of boats required would be to keep up communication between Tytler's Ghat and Mount Augusta, supposing the Settlement at Port Mouat is reduced as proposed.

No. 34, dated 26th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

Your Memo. No. 379 of the 25th April 1857, referring to para. 16, Sections D and E of my letter No. 25 of the same date.

D.—Orders have been issued making arrangements for the towing round of the hulk "Erin-go-Bragh" to Port Blair on the 29th and 30th instant.

E.—There are two boats sanctioned for Port Mouat. I am of opinion that these two boats will be required, even supposing the Settlement of Port Mouat is reduced, to keep up communication between Tytler's Ghat and Mount Augusta, for, in the event of one being damaged, another should be at hand to take its place.

No. 53, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo. by—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

Copies of correspondence as per margin forwarded to Major H. Nelson Davies, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, for information, with reference to the enquiry in his Memo. No. 325 of the 19th instant, as to when the bund at South Point will be completed, as this stoppage will delay the centre part of the work.

Letter No. 820, dated 25th April 1867, from the Senior Medical Officer, Port Blair, to Superintendent, Port Blair.

Letter No. 13, dated 27th April, from the Assistant Superintendent, Port Blair, to the Superintendent, Port Blair.

No. 820, dated 25th April, 1867.

From—Dr. A. J. Cowie, *Senior Medical Officer, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

A very large number of sick are daily arriving here from Aberdeen, and I believe a similar demand for admission into Hospital at Chatham is taking place from the Divisions at Navy and Phœnix Bays. I have, therefore, the honor to request that all prisoners may cease to be employed on the bunding works at those stations; it would be as well for a few months to withdraw them from the vicinity of those swamps.

No. 13, dated 27th April, 1867.

From—Captain the Hon'ble J. H. Fraser, *Assistant Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

In returning the letter No. 820 of 25th instant, from the Senior Medical Officer, to your address, I have the honor to inform you that, in accordance with your instructions, I have issued orders to the Overseers and others concerned about the withdrawal of convicts from all labor in the Phœnix, Aberdeen and Navy Bay Point swamps.

No. 523, dated 7th May, 1867

From—MAJOR H N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, with reference to that portion of your letter No. 29 of 25th ultimo, which attributes the delay in putting up the sluice gates at Phœnix Bay to your inability to get workmen sufficiently skilful, to state that I have seen many bunds in Australia compared with which the Phœnix Bay one is but a mite in size. The method adopted for putting up these was very simple; there was, of course, a tunnel in the bunds, through which at low tide the fresh water flowed On the sea side there was a door on three hinges suspended horizontally. When the tide ebbed and the fresh water gravitated towards the sea, it did so without hindrance, as its own force kept the sluice gate open; but when the tide flowed and had sufficient strength to overcome the fresh water-flow, the pressure of the salt-water caused the door to close. Now, suppose your sluice door fitted in its frame within an inch all round, (except when it locked against the frame to prevent its opening) the quantity of salt-water, which would force its way in through crevices of such dimensions, would be utterly inappreciable, and would be of no effect at all in preserving the mangrove. Now is it meant to be asserted that for two years no carpenters have been available here, to suspend a string like a wooden jhamp or window shutter, and fit it within an inch or two of its frame?

No. 132, dated 10th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 523, dated 7th instant, on the subject of sluice gates for the bund at Phœnix Bay, and favoring me with a suggestion as to a pattern of tunnel and horizontal door as used in Australia, which you recommend as adaptable to the above bunds

2. In reply, I beg to state that I have not seen this pattern of sluice door in use. When I was formerly an Executive Engineer in the Department of Public Works, small vents of masonry or timber with a draw, shutter, or valve, were usually adopted for small works, such as the one under reference, and I therefore have had the same constructed of timber, and these are about being fitted to the bund.

3. The pattern of sluice door that you recommend appears to me a very good one, and I shall try one on the Aberdeen South swamp bund.

4. You enquire in conclusion if it is meant to be asserted that for two years no carpenters have been available to suspend such a rough door as you describe In reply, I beg to remark that the bund was not finished two years since but one; and that I expected that the Executive Engineer, as he began the work, would have finished it, but as he did not do so, I took it in hand myself to make wooden vents such as I have described. For such construction it was preferable to use teak-wood to avoid destruction in the earth by rot or white ants, and in my opinion it was advisable to make these vents well and accurately. To do this, it was necessary to employ Chinese labor; but fever being so prevalent at Aberdeen, the Chinese carpenters refused to have anything to do with the work: I may mention that the Executive Engineer's works at Aberdeen were delayed for months for the same cause. The Chinese carpenters took fright and fled the place. At length during this last fine weather, when fever decreased, I got Chinese carpenters to go over and undertake work as described to you in my letter No. 23 of 25th ultimo.

No. 338, dated 22nd April, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, in continuation of my letter No. 325, to state that, having visited Viper Island, it appeared to Dr. Kelly and myself that the hospital at that station was over-crowded.

2. This hospital has a corrugated iron roof, and, along one side of the room, there is a raised platform which forms a sort of double story; this upper story is not far removed from the iron roof, and we found it to be very hot; in fact, what from the heat from the roof, the want of sufficient ventilation, and the impure air rising up from the numerous sick prisoners below, the platform appeared to be very unsuitable for sick men.

3 Viper Island has been denuded of trees, and the little soil that remains will soon be washed into the Bay, unless steps be taken to preserve it in its place. What appears to be wanted are trees of rapid growth, possessed of fibrous roots. It would appear advisable to obtain some Pepul cuttings from Rangoon. This is a wholesome tree, and grows where soil is very scant, you even see them luxuriant on the tops of pagodas. Jack trees might also find sufficient soil, if planted without much delay.

4. From Viper I visited Progress Creek. The same mistake which has been so generally made of denuding the hills of too many trees has been done to Prospect Hill, and far too many trees have been cut down. This not only gives great labor in cutting them up, but much of the soil must unavoidably be washed down by the rains.

5. The ground at Homfray's Ghat appears very good.

6. Proceeding to Port Mouat, I inspected the prisoners at Garden Hill. This was the first batch of convicts I had seen who belonged to Port Mouat Division. Some of the men had been a whole season there; others had gone there to fill the places of deceased and sick convicts. The general health of those I saw at Garden Hill, which is protected from the south-west monsoon appeared to Dr. Kelly and myself in no respect worse than the prisoners on this side the Island; and the gang of Madras prisoners, who were messed, were certainly in better condition than any other body of convicts we had seen here. The temporary barracks at Garden Hill is every thing that could be desired: it appears well situated; the machan or raised floor is some 10 feet from the ground, and on a level with the eaves of the verandah, so that there is abundant circulation of air both below and above, presenting a most favourable contrast with the iron-roofed hospital at Viper. The economical principles on which the temporary barracks on Garden Hill is constructed (every part of it being made from materials obtained on the spot except a few nails) was the admiration of both Dr. Kelly and myself.

7. In the vicinity of Garden Hill is some very good ground, and apparently of some extent to the southward, but thickly covered with jungle and trees of large dimensions.

8. The road onward to Port Mouat has been made with much labour; and I fear it will be difficult to travel over during the rains.

9. Of Port Mouat I can say nothing in its favor. The station is built on bluff crags exposed to the full force of the S. W. monsoon; the entrance to the inner harbour is very narrow (the Overseer guessed* it at 200 feet).

10. Besides the rocks on either hand of this narrow passage, there is Mount Augusta on the left, and the hill which ends the promontary on the right. Round either of these, a vessel entering might encounter a different current of wind, and destruction would inevitably follow. There may be good anchorage in the outer harbour, but what with intricate channels and reefs, no sailing vessel could attempt an entrance in the stormy season of the year.

11. As regards the position of Port Mouat preventing convicts escaping; those who effect their escape from the Island are almost entirely Burmese, and they would naturally try to leave the eastern shore.

12. As regards land for gardening purposes I should say that a garden hill is good. but not better than there is to be found between Aberdeen and Navy Point, where a large area of excellent soil exists within easy distance of the head quarter station on Ross Island.

13. Round Port Mouat itself I failed to discover any land fit for culturable purposes.

14. At Mount Augusta there are perhaps a couple of acres; but it is an isolated position only to be reached from Ross Island by a vessel going round by the south, or by a long pull in a boat, then by a journey on foot across the neck of land between Homfray's Creek and Tytler's Ghat; then, again, by boat across the inner bay at Port Mouat.

15. The shore at Tytler's Ghat, which is the landing place at Port Mouat, shelves very gradually, and I had to wade up to my knees for a considerable distance to reach the boat.

16. The objects aimed at in establishing Port Mouat as a Settlement were, no doubt, deserving of some consideration; but the chief point, which it appears at present advisable to keep in view, is the clearing of reproductive soil within reach of easy supervision from the Head Quarter Station at Ross Island.

17. The advisability of retaining Port Mouat as a Settlement is a very serious business. There are one or two points on which I beg to solicit information:—

(A.) Can you point out at the station of Port Mouat itself good culturable land of any extent. I do not allude to the station at Garden Hill on the Port Blair side of the Isthmus, which lies between Port Blair and Port Mouat, but round about Tytler's Ghat where the barracks have been erected. On the north side of the station, it appeared to me that mangrove swamp predominated: on the left precipitous crags all along the shore as far as the Andaman Home and beyond; in front was the inner basin with shallow water near the shore; and to the rear more precipitous rocks covered with dense jungle and tall trees, very difficult to clear away, and the soil decidedly bad; but there may be good land in the vicinity of the station at Tytler's Ghat, which is superior to that between Aberdeen and Navy Bay, and with which I am unacquainted, and, if so, I request the favor of your informing me where it is to be found.

(B.) In the event of Port Mouat being reduced, say to 50 men with a detachment of say 10 at Mount Augusta, do you consider the two objects of succouring ship-wrecked seamen, and facilitating the capture of run-away convicts, might be met?

(C.) What further accommodation than at present exists would be required at Mount Augusta and Tytler's Ghat (the two Settlements at Port Mouat) during the ensuing monsoon, if the above reduction were carried out?

(D.) Would the hulk "Erin-go-Bragh be required if the above reduction was carried out at once?

(E.) What establishment of boats would be required there if the above reduction was made?

(F.) As regards the third object, *viz* obtaining culturable garden ground, supposing suitable ground cannot be discovered near Port Blair, would the object you have in view be

* Sic in copy.

met by prosecuting the cultivation round Garden Hill ; and could you provide accommodation at Garden Hill for the number of men reduced from Port Mouat?

(G.) In the event of Port Mouat (including Mount Augusta and Garden Hill) being entirely abandoned, at what station or stations round Port Blair would you locate the division of convicts now at Port Mouat?

(H.) In how many days could you ship the barrack stores, and other materials which, under the above circumstances, would require removing from the Port Mouat Settlement?

No. 25, dated 24th April, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 338 of the 22nd instant, written consequent on your visit to "Viper Island" and "Port Mouat." Your letter invites remark, and requests information upon various points which occurred to you, which I will take up seriatim according to the order of the number of your paragraphs.

2. Your para. 2 remarks on the Hospital at Viper.

This building was selected by the late Dr. Morton in preference to any of the shingled corrugated iron barracks, the choice of all of which was given him for a hospital. Due attention was given by Mr. Prince, the late Executive Engineer, in the construction of the building, when it was decided upon as a hospital, by the fitting up of Louvre boards under the eaves of the iron roof. The roofs are themselves double, and there is a ventilation space of six inches below them. Thus the interior surface of the inner roof will be found cool to the hand, even at the middle of the day.

I have submitted a copy of this para. to Dr. Cowie, Senior Medical Officer, for his information, and have requested his opinion as to its suitability or otherwise as a hospital. Dr. Morton always considered it the best hospital he had.

3. The trees on Viper Island. This Island was bared of trees by my predecessors. In the early days of the Settlement, it was considered necessary, in view of the desperate character of the convicts then on it, to be able to see clearly over all stations occupied. Thus Ross, Chatham, and Viper were all bared. Attention shall be given to your suggestion for the introduction of trees of rapid growth. I do not know whether you saw the western half of the Island. A great number of healthy young fruit trees will be found growing on that unoccupied portion of the Island. These were introduced by my predecesors and myself. A number of Jack trees have also been introduced at the eastern end of the Island.

4. At Prospect Hill and "Woodlands" near Progress Creek, you remark that too many trees have been cut down. The clearance here being on stony ground, was made for cotton growing. A prisoner, W. Johnson, a native of the State of Virginia, who understands and has had the management of cotton cultivation, finds it necessary to perfectly clear all land given him for such cultivation, for which this patch is intended. Indeed, it is found necessary to have any success with cotton trees here, to keep them clean, weeded all round, moulded, and trenched. Mr.. Homfray, who superintends the clearance of "Woodlands," states that there were very few large trees on it, and that it was principally a light jungle.

5. Allotments of ground have been given to self-supporting cultivators at Homfray's Ghat.

6. "Garden Hill."—About half way by road to "Port Mouat" was cleared and occupied about the beginning of last season. It was intended, consequent on the excellence of the ground in the vicinity, as a small cultivation station. It was at first very cautiously occupied, as it was feared the place might be somewhat feverish ; but by accommodating the convicts in a temporary barrack raised at considerable height, they were kept pretty free from the malaria usually rising from ground and vegetation newly exposed for clearance. It is satisfactory to observe that you consider the style of barrack erected at Garden Hill as adapted to the situation.

7. It is hoped that a large space of good reproductive land will be found in the vicinity of "Garden Hill." Mr. Homfray found very good ground, so far as he penetrated the jungle to the southward.

8. The road to "Port Mouat" is not metalled ; there is an abundance of soft stone metal in the vicinity of the road.

9. "Port Mouat," the site for the station both at "Tytler's Ghat" and at "Mount Augusta," was placed high upon the bluffs you allude to, so as to obtain breeze in both directions. Of this station, the Andaman Committee, (*see* para. 65 of their letter to Government dated 1st January 1858,) remarks .—"A short road, little more than two miles in extent, would here con-"nect the eastern and western shores,—a point of some importance in their future occupation, "as by opening up and clearing the intermediate land, a healthy sea breeze could be obtained "during both monsoons."

10. As regards the narrowness of the entrance from the outer to the inner harbour and your anticipation of an inevitable destruction of a vessel, if encountering a different current of wind in passing through, and the impossibility of a sailing vessel entering in stormy weather, I beg to extract from a note and correspondence to my address from Lieutenant G. B. Hewett, late Indian Navy, as under.

"There is good anchorage in both the inner and outer harbours in from 6 to 9 fathoms, and the passage between them is safe though narrow."

Lieutenant Hewett conveyed the fine Steamer "Dalhousie" under his command, having the cargo hulk "Erin-go-Bragh in tow, into the inner harbour of Port Mouat on the 1st of May 1866.

11. As regards the position of "Port Mouat" preventing prisoners escaping, I would beg to mention that, until the occupation of that port, almost all Burmese endeavouring to escape from these Islands made a practice of resorting thereto, as a safe and secure place for preparing crafts for their further escape by sea. As regards Burmese, there have hardly been any attempts to escape from their west shore since "Port Mouat" was first occupied.

12. Not being able myself to pronounce as to which is the better soil, "near that of Garden Hill or that between Aberdeen and Navy Bay," I would beg that a reference be made to the Committee now sitting.

13. There is some fine land fit for agricultural purposes in a valley to the north of the outer harbour of "Port Mouat."

14. As regards the cultivated land at "Mount Augusta," it was intended that the produce thereof should be devoted to "Port Mouat" consumption.

15. A jetty is in course of construction at "Tytler's Ghat"; it will have to be extended with rough stone work from the adjacent shore, similar to all the jetties in Port Blair, as much again in length as is now completed.

16. I proceed to reply to the questions raised in paragraphs 16 and 17 of your letter.

(A) Can you point out, at the station of Port Mouat itself, good culturable land of any extent? I do not now allude to the station at Garden Hill on the Port Blair side of the Isthmus, which lies between Port Blair and Port Mouat, but round Tytler's Ghaut where the barrack has been erected. On the north side of the station, it appeared to me mangrove swamp predominated; on the left precipitous crags all along the shore as far as the Andaman Home and beyond; in front was the inner basin with shallow water near the shore; and to the rear more precipitous rocks, covered with dense jungle, and tall trees, very difficult to clear away, and the soil decidedly bad; but there may the good land in the vicinity of the station at "Tytler's Ghaut," which is superior to that between Aberdeen and Navy Bay with which I am unacquainted, and, if so, I request the favor of your informing me where it is to be found?

There is excellent land on the east slope of the ridge of the Tytler's Ghaut, running down to a valley watered by a fresh water stream in the dry season. Mr. Homfray considers this even finer than "Garden Hill" soil. This land has a running length of nearly two miles north, and south of the eastern slopes of the valley in rear of the ridge.

(B.) In the event of the Port Mouat Establishment being reduced, say to fifty men, with a detachment of say ten at "Mount Augusta," do you consider the two objects of succouring ship-wrecked seamen, and facilitating the capture of run-away convicts, might be met?

I should wish that one section (25 men) of convicts be retained at "Mount Augusta," 2 sections at Tytler's Ghaut for labor, also a section in reserve at the latter place for hospital attendants, keeping up communications, cattle attendants, &c. This will be a total of 100, men, who, I consider, would, for the present, be sufficient to meet the two objects you refer to.

(C.) What further accommodation than at present exists would be required at "Mount Augusta" and "Tytler's Ghaut" (the two Settlements at Port Mouat) during the ensuing monsoon, if the above reduction was carried out?

None would be required for the above 100 men.

(D.) Would the hulk Erin-go-Bragh be required if the above reduction was carried out at once?

No.

(E) What establishment of boats would be required there if the above reduction was made?

No further establishment will be required.

(F.) As regards the third object, *viz*, obtaining culturable garden ground (supposing suitable ground cannot be discovered near Port Blair), would the object you had in view be met by prosecuting the cultivation

The object I had in view would be very considerably met by prosecuting cultivation round and about "Garden Hill."

Accommodation could be provided at "Garden Hill" for the men withdrawn from

round "Garden Hill;" and could you provide accommodation at "Garden Hill" for the number of men reduced from "Port Mouat."

Port Mouat; but it is suggested that a portion of the men should be quartered in similar barracks on "Woodlands."

(G.) In the event of "Port Mouat" including "Mount Augusta" and "Garden Hill" being entirely abandoned, at what station or stations round Port Blair would you locate the division of convicts now at "Port Mouat?"

I would break up the division, and distribute the men into the existing divisions round about Port Blair, or I could establish them at "Navy Bay," where I have sufficient accommodation.

(H.) In how many days could you ship the barrack stores and other materials, which, under the above circumstances, require removing from the "Port Mouat" Settlement to "Port Blair."

In ten days, if assistance of boats were sent from "Port Blair."

17. In conclusion, I may with propriety here extract from the Hon'ble Major General Sir Robert Napier's Note on Port Blair, with reference to "Port Mouat." He remarks:—"Communication has now been opened quite across the Island from Port Blair on the east to "Port Mouat on the west, across an Isthmus (1¾ mile of road) which cuts off a southern "Peninsula about 12 miles long and 10 broad. It is most desirable that a branch Settlement "should be established at "Port Mouat" as soon as it may be practicable. A good clearance "between the two Settlements would render the southern peninsula comparatively safe from "the aborigines, and facilitate its clearance and occupation. Eventually, a Settlement on the "west will be most favórably placed for the interests of commerce, and the salvation of ships "in distress." I only desire to add that it was upon this opinion of Sir Robert Napier's, coupled with many other advantages, that I have already set forth at length for the information of Government through your office, amongst which principally may be mentioned those of quickly finding suitable spaces for the speedy erection of further accommodation on an apparently healthy and approved locality, approached by a road through what promised to be the best culturable and reproductive soil hitherto found about the Settlement, that I felt it my duty to urge for the occupation of "Port Mouat" and its vicinity.

Dated 30th April, 1867.

From—Lieut. W. G. Cumming, R. E., *Executive Engineer, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In my estimate of the land cleared and under cultivation at Port Mouat, I included the patch you allude to at the foot of "Mount Augusta," which I think may be roughly stated at about two acres.

No. 452, dated 2nd May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner. British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to send you a copy of the Jail Manual for British Burmah. In these you will observe each rule contains a direct order on a particular subject. You may find it useful in framing your proposed rules. I would invite your attention to the division of labor Section VI, pages 77 to 81. You may find such a classification useful here.

No. 346, dated 23rd April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to state that he has noticed on the east side of Ross Island, where some prisoners are making lime, there is a latrine on the ridge used by Europeans, from which obnoxious matter is allowed to flow down the hill. This is not of recent occurrence, and the gutter down which the matter flows is covered with green scum, and a bad smell exudes from the locality.

No. 41, dated 27th April, 1867.

Memo. by—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

Copies of correspondence as per margin forwarded to Major H. Nelson Davies, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, with reference to his Memo. No. 346 of the 23rd instant, for information.

Memo. No. 9, dated Port Blair, 23rd April, 1867, from the Superintendent, Port Blair, to the Officer, commanding troops, Port Blair.

Letter No. 33, dated Port Blair, 25th April 1867, from that Officer in reply.

No. 9, dated 23rd April, 1867.

Memo. by—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

Copy of Memo. No. 346, Chief Commissioner's Office, Port Blair, dated 23rd April 1867, forwarded to the Officer commanding troops, Port Blair, with a request that he will examine into, and report the cause of the offensive matter above mentioned, which should be cleaned and not allowed again to accumulate.

No. 33, dated 25th April, 1867.

From—CAPTAIN W. J. DOREYNE, *Commanding Troops, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Memo. No. 9, of the 23rd instant, accompanied by the copy of a Memorandum No. 346 from Major H. Nelson Davies, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, date and subject marginally noted, and in answer to the same, I beg to inform you that I visited, in company with Captain Surplice, Commanding Detachment 2-24th Regiment, the locality pointed out, and the water course complained of, and that the result of my inspection was this—

Dated Port Blair, 23rd April 1867, reporting that from a latrine in use with Detachment 2-24th Regt., obnoxious matter is allowed to flow down the hill on the east side of Ross Island.

Firstly.—That the water-course complained of is in no way whatever connected with any latrine.

Secondly.—That the fluid flowing therein issues solely from a bath house in use by the Europeans, and is composed simply of soap and water, and not, as Major Davies states, of any matter or fluid that can possibly be considered hurtful or obnoxious in its way.. The fall that the water has, however, is such as to prevent any lodgment which might in time become stagnant and be the source of offensive smells arising, none of which could certainly be detected last evening, and as for the green scum, it is a thing that is to be met with wherever water has trickled down over earth for any time, &c., which it must do here most hours during the day.

In conclusion I beg to state, that as Officer Commanding Port Blair, I make it my duty to inspect all ground round the barrack occupied by troops. Captain Surplice, Commanding the Detachment 2-24th Regiment, I know, is most particular in this respect ; and I feel certain that there is nothing on sanitary grounds, touching the locality in question or other such points, so glaring of its kind, as to justify the preference of any complaint to you.

The Executive Engineer will, no doubt, when he can spare labour from more important works, construct a proper drain for the wash house.

N. B.—A copy of Major Davies' Memorandum above marginally noted, together with one of this letter, I purpose forwarding to the Major General Commanding the Pegu Division, for his information.

No. 561, dated 13th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request you will, in the course of this day (as soon as possible), answer the following questions and return this paper to me :—

1*st.*—What are the facilities and advantages now in force for convicts to get married?

2*nd.*—What are the obstacles which impede such a step?

3*rd.*—Is it advisable or not to get the women married?

4*th.*—Is there any backwardness on the part of male prisoners to marry the female prisoners?

5*th.*—Does it often happen that applications for men to marry are refused by you?

No. 153, dated 13th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, marked "urgent," No. 561, of this day's date, requesting answers to the following questions :—

Questions.	*Answers.*
1*st.*—What are the facilities and advantages now in force for convicts to get married?	The rules that I have established in this Settlement for the marriage of convicts are given in Annexure A. These have been taken from the Code of Regulations proposed to be in force in the Penal Settlement of

Port Blair, which I am about submitting to Government for approval. From the rules it will be seen that convicts having been three years and women two years on the Settlement, may marry on the conditions laid down in the rules.

On advice personally given me by His Excellency the Governor General in Council a year ago, facilities for marriage have been enlarged, and a woman now, who has been 3 *months* in the Settlement, may marry a man of 3 years' standing if there be no obstacles as laid down by the rules.

The advantages are very great to couples marrying. They become possessed of a home of their own, and, by their conjoint labor, can obtain such a position as to make it a matter of use to the Settlement to allow them to become self-supporters. Schools have been established for the children of convicts.

2nd.—What are the obstacles which impede such a step?

The first obstacle is that of a woman's husband being alive in India. In such case when a convict applies for a convict woman in marriage, the Civil authorities of the zillah, from whence she was sentenced, are addressed, and enquiries made of the husband as to whether he claims or relinquishes her. Instances occur in which the husband claims his wife; but, in many cases, they do relinquish their wives.

I do not allow a convict to marry unless he has a model hut in which to receive his wife; or Rs. 100 with which to construct one, and, in the event of being a self-supporter, buying her some clothes, household stuff, &c. For want of such a precaution, when I first came to this Settlement, women loudly complained to me of their lot having been thrown with men of their husband's kind who would not properly support them.

3rd.—Is it advisable or not, to get the women married?

It is most advisable to get the women married. On this point, Sir Robert Napier remarked "that there could not be two opinions."

4th—Is there any backwardness on the part of male prisoners to marry the female prisoners?

The only backwardness that I have observed on the part of male prisoners to marry with female prisoners, is on the part of term convicts, and generally with those who were of good family, position, or means, in their own country. Doubtless, there are many convicts who indulge a hope, sooner or later, of release, and that hope may deter a man from marriage with a convict woman. For these, with very few exceptions, are all life-convicts, and a man that once marries a life-convict woman is tied to the Settlement so long as she lives by Settlement Regulations The ordinary life-convicts, however, both male and female, who "accept the position" of life-convicts, and have no hopes of release are, I find, very generally disposed to marriage, and, if possible, to setting up as self-supporters.

5th—Does it often happen that application for men to marry are refused by you?

It frequently happens that applications for marriage are for a time refused, *i. e.*, until the requirements of the rules that I have established, are complied with.

The man may not have a hut ready, or the money to set up with. He may not have been

three years on the Settlement, or the woman three months. Reference to the woman's zillah may be necessary, or the man may be in a chain gang, or other serious disgrace.

So long as conditions are in the main complied with, every facility, and indeed some indulgence in not being too strict about the rules, is accorded in view of the desirability for encouraging marriage amongst the convicts.

Rules respecting Marriage of Convicts.

Respectable convicts of the 1st and 2nd class to marry.

1. Life convicts of the 1st and 2nd grade, or term convicts of single men, who have acquired confirmed habits of industry, who have a trade or employment that will enable them from their gains to support a wife, are allowed to marry well-behaved female convicts, who are single, or whose husbands, if married in their own country, have previously relinquished them, if not less than two years in the Settlement.

Convicts of three years standing and having sufficient means may apply for marriage.

2. A convict who has been three years on the Settlement, and has maintained a good character, and has, by labor and industry, saved from his earnings a sufficient sum in the Superintendent's opinion wherewith to construct a model hut, and for the maintenance of a wife, he is at liberty to make application for permission to marry.

3. A term convict, if marrying a life female convict of his own accord, shall formally bind himself before the Magistrate to reside at Port Blair for the rest of his life. If such be not enforced, the result would be on the expiry of the male convict's sentence, he might leave such a family by such wife a burthen on the Settlement, and she without a support.

This rule must equally apply when a term female convict marries a life male convict.

General rule.

4. The general rule of the Settlement therefore is, that such marriages as the above be not encouraged, but that term convict males shall marry term convict females, and life convict males, life convict females.

Life convicts marry term convicts.

5. Female life convicts may be allowed to marry male term convicts in such cases in which the Superintendent is satisfied, or has reason to believe, that the male convict has a *bona fide* interest in remaining on the Settlement, and *vice versa*, provided the agreement before mentioned be formally made.

Parties desiring marriage to apply, &c.

6. When parties desire marriage, they shall, by a petition mutually signed, apply to the Superintendent. If it shall appear by the warrant that the female convict is married in her native country, the Magistrate or other Officer of the district in which she may reside, shall be addressed to ascertain the truth or otherwise of the same, and whether the husband claims or relinquishes her. If it shall result that she is free to marry, she shall be allowed to marry on the Settlement, if she have earned the position which the rules of the Settlement assign to the well-behaved.

Convict cultivators, &c., to be encouraged to marry.

7. All convicts employed as settlers in cultivating land, and possessing farm stock, should, as a matter of interest, be encouraged to marry.

No. 366, dated 25th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to enquire whether the marine stores and godowns could not advantageously be made over to the Harbour Master, as the Sub-Assistant-Commissary General has plenty to attend to, with reference to supply of stores, cattle and sheep farms, &c. What are your recommendations in this matter ?

No. 35, dated 27th April, 1865.

Memo. from—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned, in acknowledging the receipt of Memo. from Chief Commissioner's Office No. 366 of the 25th instant, (subject, marine stores, &c.) has the honor to state that he considers the marine stores might advantageously be made over by the Sub-Assistant

Commissary General to the Harbour Master; the only difficulty is that of separate and secure godown accommodation. At present none is available; but after the new iron godowns expected from England are erected, a portion of one of them might be made over to the Harbour Master as a marine store. The undersigned encloses a list of marine stores on hand on this date, in original, as received from the Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

List of Marine Stores on hand, 25th April, 1867.

Names of Articles.		Quantity.	Remarks.
Anchors	No.	31	
Bars, Copper	lbs.	353-11-0	
Blocks, of sorts	No.	12	
Ditto brass	"	16	
Brushes, Scrubbing	"	135	
Bunting, Black	Yards	102	
Do., Blue	"	89	
Do., Red	"	114	
Do., White	"	28	
Do., Yellow	"	142	
Canvas	"	1,292½	
Caulking, Iron	No.	49	
Chains, Rubble	Fathoms	475⅛	
Chains, Rudder	No.	12	
Clinch Rings	"	565	
Cloth, Dungree	Pieces.	257-3¼	
Coal, English	Tons	262-10-1-7	
Grapnels, Boat's	No.	20	
Gudgeons, Iron	"	36	
Do., Brass	"	34	
Gunny Putty	"	46	
Hooks for boats	"	35	
Kettle, Copper Tea	"	2	
Do., Do., Fish	"	1	
Lamp, Signal	"	1	
Do., do., Globe	"	23	
Lanterns, Signal	"	15	
Lead, red powder	lbs.	366-1-0	
Do., black do.	"	524	
Leatherage	"	247-8	
Log Line	Skeins.	136	
Links to connect 1 inch Chain	No.	11	
Marline Spike	"	24	
Nails, zinc	lbs.	629-6-8	
Nails, Composition, Brass	"	279-12-8	
Needles, Sail	No.	100	
Oakum, Europe	lbs.	908-8-0	
Oars of sizes	Feet.	4,217-6	
Pintles, Brass	No.	14	
Do., Iron	"	29	
Pitch	lbs.	3,000	
Quick Silver	"	31-14-0	
Rope, Coir	"	9,040-6	
Do., Europe	"	19,024-5	
Rollocks, Iron	No.	276	
Rivets, Copper	"	2,777	
Seizing line	lbs.	1,519-12	
Scrapers	No.	105	
Sheets, Brass	lbs.	218-7	
Do., Copper	"	2,570-7	
Do., Lead	"	3,129-12	
Do., Zinc	"	5,629-13	
Do., Iron	"	5,937-4	
Solder, Soft	"	7-14	
Soldering Iron	No.	5	
Spun Yarn, tarred	lbs.	2,001	
Do., white	"	14,994	
Tallow	"	2,045-4	
Tacks, Copper	"	87-4	
Do., Iron	"	579-3	
Do. Zinc	"	2,893-8	
Thimbles, Iron Galvanized	No.	87	
Do., Brass	"	285	
Vice, Hand	"	42	
Do., Bench	"	6	
Varnish, Black	lbs.	180	

Port Blair,
The 26th April, 1867.

A. F. LAUGHTON, Lieut.,
Sub-Asst. Comy.-Genl., Port Blair.

No. 355, dated 23rd April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Senior Medical Officer and President, Sanitary Committee, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to enclose extract of letter No. 44 of to-day's date, from the Sub-Assistant Commissary General, on the subject of cost of meat rations for prisoners at Port Blair, for information.

No. 429, dated 29th April, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Senior Medical Officer and President, Sanitary Committee, Port Blair.

I have the honor to state that, in conversing with the men of the Sapper Battalion here, I learn that they obtain but a precarious supply of meat. The honesty with which these men work has not escaped my observation ; and your Committee is doubtless aware of the good service these men do, as well as the fact that they are composed of a more meat-eating race than most other natives of India. It has occurred to me that, in consideration of the scanty supply of meat and fish available here, it would both reduce the demand for meat, and also conduce to the health of the Sapper-men, if say three of their members were told off as fishermen to procure a supply for the Company. I think there is no fear but that a good return for this expenditure of labor would result in the quantity of work the men would turn out, and it might also show us what really can be done in the way of fishing in the waters of this Settlement, for, Dr. Kelly assures me, he believes the supply of fish to be unlimited. I desire an expression of the views of your Committee on the above question before bringing the matter before the Superintendent.

No. 531, dated 8th May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, with reference to your letter No. 3287, dated 6th March last, on the subject of the classes of men who are meat-eaters in this Settlement, to request you will be good enough to forward a return according to the subjoined form :—

BEEF EATERS.		MUTTON EATERS.		THOSE WHO WILL EAT ANY KIND OF ANIMAL FOOD.		REMARKS.
Denomination of Castes.	Numbers.	Denomination of Castes.	Numbers.	Denomination of Castes.	Numbers.	

No. 147, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 531, of the 8th instant, on the subject of the classes of men who are meat-eaters in this Settlement, and in reply beg to forward enclosed the required return as per form therewith attached :—

Beef Eaters.		Mutton Eaters.		Number who will eat any kind of animal food.		Number who will not eat any kind of animal food.	Remarks.
Denomination of Caste.	Number.	Denomination of Caste.	Number.	Denomination of Caste.	Number.		
Mussulmans ...	1,580	Hindoos ...	3,773	Madrassees ... Burmese ... Chinese ...	1,496	331	

No. 331, dated 22nd April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request you will favor him with the following information :—

1*st.*—What is the approximate cost to Government of mutton per pound to prisoners here?

2*nd.*—The same for beef?

3*rd.*—What is the approximate cost to Government per annum for feeding each convict?

4*th.*—What do you estimate the cost to Government for each prisoner per annum for everything, except cost of being brought here, and cost for buildings?

No. 44, dated 23rd April, 1867.

From—Lieut. A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Memo. No. 331, dated 22nd April, and in reply to the several enquiries therein made to state—

2. That by a statement recently prepared in this Office, the cost of mutton including all charges, such as freight, pay and cost of rations to attendants, three months' keep previous to slaughter of sheep, and average proportion of casualties, - comes to Re. 1-3-11 per lb., and for beef, As. 0-6-8 per lb.

3. Mutton is sold to convicts at As. 0-2-6 per lb., and beef at As. 0-1-11 per lb. I have been called upon by the Superintendent to issue three quarter lbs. of meat weekly to each convict; the cost of this per annum, after deducting the above price recoverable from them, will be about Rs. 2,38,621.

4. The cost of feeding each convict, including the original price of the provisions, the freight, packing charges, &c., amounts to about Rs. 78-13-9 per annum: this calculation is based on a supposed fixed scale of ration for each man.

5. I am not in a position to afford information as to the total annual cost of each convict beyond the price of their food as already given. Their clothing is not supplied by me; it is made up by the Superintendent from material which I believe he partly obtains through me, and partly from other sources. Much of the clothing I obtain is purchased wholesale by the bunniahs, and retailed by them to persons of all classes, free and convict.

6. There are many articles, such as cooking pots, brass and copper vessels, which are sold at cost price, including packing charges, but excluding freight. How much of this is debitable to the estimated cost of a convict, it is difficult to say.

7. Cost of dieting in hospitals is not known to me, as the diets are supplied by the bunniahs and the cost drawn from the Treasury.

8. Articles are issued by me on " Miscellaneous Contingent" indents to the Superintendent, the separate heads to which these are chargeable are not known to me ; doubtless some of them should be added to the estimated annual cost of each prisoner.

No. 419, dated 29th April, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to call your attention again to the serious price of meat in this Settlement, and to point out for your consideration, the urgent necessity existing for re-imbursing the Government in some way for the outlay.

2. Mutton costs Government about Rs. 1-4 per lb., and beef Rs. 0-6-8. It appears scarcely fair to Government to sell it to free residents at annas 4 and 3 respectively ; convicts get it at annas 2-6 and 1-6.

3. The Commissariat Officer states, were he in a position to carry out your proposal of issuing ¾ lbs. of meat weekly to each convict, the extra cost to Government, after deducting all receipts, would be nearly 2½ lakhs a year.

4. Your opinion is requested as to whether the rate should not be raised to free residents, say to 8 annas for mutton, and 4 annas for beef per pound, which is about half the Rangoon prices ; and in a proportionate ratio to all convicts on a receipt of more than Rupees 30 per month.

5. Your views are also solicited on the subject of a run for goats being made (the run should be away from cultivated ground), with the object of increasing the stock of goats, and thereby making them a partial substitute for mutton ; goats are more prolific, are hardier, and cheaper than sheep.

6. The piggery also on Aberdeen, or on some more suitable site, might be largely increased, especially as Burmese, Chinese, and a number of low caste Madrassees eat and like pork.

No. 101, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 419 of the 29th ultimo, in which, by the direction of the Chief Commissioner, you call my attention to the serious price of meat in this Settlement, and point out for my consideration the urgent necessity existing for re-imbursing the Government in some way for the outlay.

You remark in para. 2, that as mutton costs Government Rs. 1-4 per lb. and beef annas 6-8 per lb., it appears scarcely fair to Government to sell it to free residents at 4 and 3 annas per lb. respectively. Convicts, you note, get mutton at annas 2-6 and beef annas 1-6 per. lb. The above rates, you will doubtless remember, were, on my submitting them to the Chief Commissioner with my letter No. 7, dated the 9th May 1865, approved of in your letter No. 89 of the 15th idem.

3. In para. 3 you note that the Commissariat Officer states that, to issue three-fourths of a lb of meat weekly to each convict, the extra cost to Government, after deducting all receipts, would be nearly 2½ lakhs Rupees a year. This is a very heavy sum ; but it would appear from the reports of the various inspecting Medical Officers and Surgeons, whose duties have brought them to this Settlement, that if the physical condition and health of the convicts is to be raised, this is a difficulty that must be faced, and is one to lessen which every effort must be made. With reference to this portion of the subject, I would beg here to call attention to my letter No. 229 of the 25th March last, in which I submitted a project for increasing the supply of fish, for the Chief Commissioner's approval.

4. In view, therefore, of these circumstances, you request my opinion as to whether the rate should not be raised to free residents, say to 8 annas for mutton and 4 annas for beef per lb., which you state is half the Rangoon prices, and you propose in a proportionate ratio that the price of meat should also be raised to all convicts on receipt of more than 30 Rupees per month ; in reply to which I beg to state that, seeing the great outlay which the Government has to incur in supplying fresh meat, I am of opinion that the rates for meat should be raised as you propose to all free residents on receipt of pay above 100 Rupees per mensem. But seeing the many expenses that the subordinate free residents, clerks, overseers, &c., especially those who have families, have to incur, whose salaries are within 100 Rupees per mensem, I would submit for the Chief Commissioner's consideration whether it would not be hard to make that portion of the community pay more than they now do. I think that convicts, on receipt of more than Rs. 30 per month, seeing that they have many opportunities of procuring fish cheap instead of paying at convict rates, should pay at the existing rates.

5. You request my views also on the subject of a run for goats being made, with the view of thereby providing a partial substitute for mutton. There could be no objection to

this arrangement: on the contrary, it would be one whereby considerable saving could be effected, if such a run could be established on some spot distant from cultivators' gardens. The goats here are most destructive; they eat up everything that they can get at, more particularly young cocoanuts and plantains; they even tear down fences (unless of the very strongest kind) constructed to protect such young trees to get at them. Such goats as there are on the Settlement breed and thrive well, and are valuable alone in the supply of milk (which is a good anti-scorbutic) that they afford. A goat run could be established for the present at "Corbyn's Cove," or better still, perhaps, a little south. A small village might be established in the second Bay below Port Blair on the east coast of South Andaman, and some 15 or 20 convicts, with a small armed Police for their protection, located for the care of the animals and safety from the aborigines. Sheds will have to be erected for the shelter of the animals in the monsoon, and provision made for water in dry weather by bunding a small stream which flows down the Bay. The establishment should be under the Commissariat Department, and superintended by a convict jemadar, selected for the duty. To keep the animals in condition, a small supply of grain would, I think, be necessary for them, especially in the monsoon.

6. The experimental piggery which I have established at Aberdeen has succeeded thus far very well, as regards increase; but the stock has, I consider, deteriorated from in breeding. I have been trying for some time past to get two or three good boars from ships visiting this port, but have not as yet succeeded. As the number of pigs is increasing, it will be necessary shortly to remove the piggery from its present locality; it is rather difficult to find a secure place for a new piggery, for the animals must be kept secure from the Andamanese. Perhaps the best place to which they could now be removed would be to "Old Haddo."

No. 457, dated 2nd May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will be good enough to furnish me with any objections that may present themselves to you in regard to the introduction of compulsory messing rules among the prisoners of all classes in this Settlement.

No. 104, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No 457 of the 2nd instant, requesting me to furnish you with any objections that may present themselves in regard to the introduction of compulsory messing rules amongst the prisoners of all classes in this Settlement.

2. This is a question upon which I have thought much since I have been in charge of this Settlement. The result is that I have come to the opinion that the attempt to introduce compulsory messing amongst the prisoners of all classes in this Settlement is a step that will be attended with such great difficulties, necessitating the application of such force to achieve the object, as in all probability to lead to disastrous consequences, and is, therefore, a step that in its entirety, I am of opinion, should not be attempted.

3. When I arrived at this Settlement, I found all the convicts were subsisting themselves on a cash allowance of 1 anna 9 pie per man per day, with the exception of a gang of Madras Pariahs employed in the Marine Division under Mr. J. N. Homfray, the Harbour Master, and a few convicts in a punishment gang. About the same time I was furnished by the Government of India with a copy of a "Note on Port Blair" by the Hon'ble Major General Sir Robert Napier, which was accompanied by a Resolution No. 2548, dated the 7th April 1864, of the Governor General in Council, wherein, in ordering that a copy of such Note be furnished me with the above Resolution, I was ordered to give my earnest attention to the requirements of the Government of India. Sir Robert Napier in his Note remarks:—"All prisoners, excepting a few, receive a subsistence allowance. All Hindoos would prefer *any* privation rather than have their food prepared in messes." On this, His Excellency the Governor General in Council ordered—"No recourse, therefore, need be had to issuing rations to convicts, and that the subsistence allowance be increased to an amount sufficient to provide the men with the proper allowance of food, which allowance the Superintendent was authorized immediately to raise to a reasonable standard."

4. I have already, in another communication, stated to you that upon these two documents, *i. e.*, the Resolution of Government and the Note upon which it is founded, I have based my administration of the Settlement; and viewing it therefore as unwise, as well as being opposed to the wishes of Government, I have not extended the mess-gang system. I consider that to do so *now*, *i. e.*, to introduce compulsory messing rules amongst the prisoners of all classes is too late. Had this been done *from the first*, such a system would no doubt have

held its ground, as well here, as it does in Indian Jails; the difficulty now is to introduce a new order of things amongst convicts who have been for so long permitted to subsist themselves.

5. I do not mean to say that it is *impossible* to introduce compulsory messing rules amongst the prisoners of all classes; but I am decidedly of opinion that the attempt to enforce such a step would be attended by violence, disaster, and bloodshed, and I fear many instances of suicide. It is true that the Hindoo loses his caste by crossing the seas to these shores, and although his caste is not recognized, he still clings to it, and would rather give up his life than be forced to eat against his caste tenets.

6. There would be no difficulty, I think, in making all low caste Madrassees mess together; in like manner Chinese and Burmese could be messed.

7. It may be urged that high caste men might be selected from amongst the Hindoos to cook for them, but this act alone is an official recognition of caste, which subverts one of the fundamental principles on which this Settlement is governed; but even if this recognition was given to such an arrangement, the difficulty would be endless in the segregation of the *various* Hindoo castes into separate gangs, to be cooked for by Brahmins of those different classes. The maintenance of this arrangement would be ever on the change by arrivals, transfers, promotion &c., involving an enormous amount of trouble in the keeping of correct accounts, and while a great outlay of convict labor would be expended on cooks, water coolies, rice and *mussala* pounders and cleaners, &c. There would have to be pots for those who eat meat, and those who do not eat, &c.

8. The same difficulty, though prehaps in a less degree, would attend the separation and providing for the different Mahomedan sects.

9. In conclusion I beg to say that the only way that I can see at all that the messing as proposed could be introduced in this Settlement is by enforcing it upon all newly arriving gangs of convicts, and allowing the present system to exsist and gradually die out with those convicts, save the Madrassees, Burmese and Chinese, amongst those who are now allowed to subsist themselves.

Finally, I beg to say that though the above are my views in these matters, that I am prepared to use my best endeavours for the introduction of compulsory messing rules amongst the prisoners of all classes in this Settlement, should the Government desire it.

No. 387, dated 26th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Assistant to Superintendent, in charge, Port Mouat.*

I have the honor to request you will favor me with a report on the messing system you have introduced among the convicts at Port Mouat.

1.—I wish to know what class mess?

2.—What description of food they get?

3.—What quantities each man gets?

4.—What cooking pots are used; if copper, how often they are tinned?

5.—Whether you think you could manage to mess the whole of your gang supposing you appointed a high caste cook, and let Mussulmans and Hindoos eat separate?

6.—How are you supplied with fish; and any further particulars which may occur to you?

Dated 10th May, 1867.

From—J. N. HOMFRAY, ESQ., *Assistant to Superintendent, in charge, Port Mouat,*

To— *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your memo. No. 387, dated the 26th ultimo, and in compliance with the request made therein to state—

1*st.*—That Hindoos and Mussulmans of all classes, Natives of the Madras Presidency, mess together. They are section gangsmen 1st class, 2nd class, and 3rd class convicts.

2*nd*—The description of food they get will be observed from the accompanying statement exhibiting average daily expenses of rations supplied to gang.

3*rd*—A second statement is annexed shewing quantities each man receives.

4*th.*—Copper deckchees are used as cooking pots, in addition two brass tusslahs seldom used for cooking are made use of in serving the meals to the men. While the mess-gang was on Ross Island, a twelve month ago, these deckchees were tinned once in every two months; but, since the opening of this place, great difficulty has been experienced in tinning them for want of intrinsic ranjah, and men who know how to tin them properly, has put a stop to their being tinned. They are, however, properly cleaned so as not to affect the food cooked in them.

5th.—If an attempt were made to mess the whole of my gang, great trouble and difficulties would arise in the beginning; but in the end it would be successful, when all arrangements could be made to conform to the caste prejudices of the Up-country Hindoos and natives of Bengal. High caste cooks are not always available, and, even if they are, the Hindoos would require a larger number owing to the sect differences which exist among them. For instance, a high caste Up-country Hindoo, would not touch fish or meat, he cannot, therefore, act as a cook; nor will he take his meals from any other hands.

6th.—Fish is supplied by the Government fisheries as well as by the self-supporting fishermen. Since December last, the Government Fisheries began to work satisfactorily, though operations were commenced in September 1866. Prisoner Gregory deserves credit for this; but since his illness in hospital, and the escape of 11 of his men, the supplies have reduced.

Conclusion.—The mess-gangsmen take their meals thrice a day: their 1st meal commences at 6 A. M. before they go to their work,—all of them do not care to join in this; the time of their 2nd meal is at 11 A. M., after they have returned from their morning work; and their last meal is at 6 P. M., after they have done with the day's work.

For further particulars, I herewith attach a separate memorandum, which I dare say you will find useful.

Memorandum by J. N Homfray, Esq., *Assistant to Superintendent, in charge, Port Mouat.*

In order to give full satisfaction to Major Davies with regard to my mess-gang system, it is necessary to explain its origin, together with several obstacles and losses incurred by it to Government, as also such advantages gained by it:—

I fairly commenced my duties in this Settlement as Harbour Master in October 1863, when the 9th division of convicts, under my orders, was formed by the Superintendent into the marine or boatmen division,—this consisted of all classes, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, mechanics and coolies of all countries and creeds. The nature of the duty required my men to be always in attendance throughout the week, and even at times during the nights, holidays, Sundays; meal hours and late hours could not be considered, and I soon found my small division, which was then 250 in all, not enough to get through the work with, which was then by the establishment of the Public Works Department, daily increasing. Ships kept pouring in successively, and at times three and four were in the Harbour together,—circumstances that never occurred before; my division was being greatly weakened by this hard labor, and irregular hours, and was fast filling the hospitals. I then obtained permission from Colonel Tytler, the Superintendent at that time, to allow me to put my men into a mess-gang, so as I could work in time with the crews of vessels, and have no breakage of labor for food during the day as the other divisional convicts had, *viz.*, from 11 A. M. to 2 P. M., being three hours during the best working portion of the day. I accordingly made arrangements to put all those boatmen and coolies working on Ross Island into a mess-gang. I had great difficulty the first two months in making them attend and eat the food. The lower caste men had no objections, and were glad as it saved them much trouble, and gave them good and plentiful food in regular hours. These were Madras convicts not having any high caste men from that Presidency, the cooks were selected from the Pillay, Chetty and Pallie castes by their own wishes. Some few even of these Madrasees that were thieves, having little money or friends on the Island, used to absent themselves from mess and even labor, till I adopted means of keeping them under close watch; but, then again at night they used to steal away and eat elsewhere, refusing the mess-gang food. Several months passed away in this way, and it was only when their means had run out, and their pay stopped, that they came into the mess-gang. I had at that time 50 Madrassees only, all in one mess, with three meals a day. Another mess-gang of Hindoostanees and Bengalees I tried to establish, but this failed from caste prejudices of the several races. Of different parts of the large tract of country that comes under the heading of the Bengal Presidency, the kind of food of those people vary so considerably that I found it very difficult to please them, unless I divided them into small mess-gangs of the different zillahs, which would have given me a deal of trouble by having different quantities and qualities of food for each mess, as also loss to labor by several cooks; besides this kind of men made poor boatmen that I intended in time to exchange them all for Madrassees.

I always listened to all complaints my Madrassees made me, and personally attended to their food for several months, till I got into good working order. Very likely my ignorance of the Telegoo language prevented their making unnecessary appeals and false complaints, which convicts are always in the habit of making, if they can get any one, who will understand them and listen to their statements. It was very difficult to lay down any fixed basis for food, for at first they tried all ways for confusing the qualities and quantities of food, and also the irregular supply of fish and vegetables used to put me out a great deal. Latterly, I was obliged to have a garden and some fishermen set aside from my division, so as to be

regular with these supplies ; and by a couple of years I had 150 Madrasees as boatmen in the 9th division, messing together and enjoying good health and strength. I had to check the weighing and accounts, and frequently attend meal hours, otherwise there used to be roguery carried on. The Banniah Moonshee and Khandharee worked hand-in-hand in stealing their food. The scale of rations, which after much trouble I framed out, could not be strictly attended to. All newly arrived convicts for the first two months had a very great appetite, and I used to be obliged to increase their grain by a couple of ounces for that period, taking out from the ghee or vegetable a proportion to pay for that. Then, again, the convicts from the district of Madura, which is in the south of Madras, were great eaters of salt, requiring one-half ounce for each man per day, while the ordinary convicts were content with three-quarters of an ounce. The fluctuation in prices of curry stuff varied considerably in the Commissariat, and also often ran out of them ; the same was with the vegetable and fish.

The most of my boatmen were 2nd class convicts, owing to the hard work that they had always to contend with in comparison to other divisions. In this way I ordered that seven pice worth of food was to be given them, and one pice vegetable, fish or mutton, making in all about two annas, sometimes more and sometimes less according to the fluctuation in prices. On the day fixed for the distribution of divisional pay, the mess-gang men received eight annas for the 3rd class, one rupee for 2nd class, and two rupees for 1st class and Tolydars. This was the only and best arrangement I could arrive at. There was a regular cash account kept of the whole mess-gang doings, and if, after all payments, there was a balance, it used to be carried on to the following month, and, when a large sum, it was disposed of either in money in equal shares to all the men of the gang, or sheep purchased cheap from ship Captains, as the Commissariat would refuse to give me any extra quantity. The cash given to the men's hands were for any extra articles they might wish to eat, such as sweatmeats, tobacco, sugar, meat, &c. This is the same system I have carried on at Port Mouat. The greater number of mess-gang convicts unfortunately there are third class, which compels me to give them only seven to seven and a half pice worth of food ; also I am frequently obliged to give them vegetable and wild pigs gratis, being a new clearing, and hard work to get through. Sacrificing all comforts, my mess-gang men have had a severe trial ; and I must say, I would have been at a great fix had I not adopted this system. I was able to keep my men together, make them eat their meals at regular hours, have more time for labor, take less cooking space, locating them in the hulk, not hoarding up money, knowledge of their eating proper food in fair quantities ; not having pay in hand, the men were prevented from deserting with provisions, and also offering bribes to shorten labor. These were all the advantages gained to Government ; the loss was in supplying gratis cooks, utensils., vegetables, pigs, and also sometimes, when the Superintendent ordered four hours' leave to be given them during the hot weather, which was a dead loss to all advantages that I looked to gain by the mess-gang for Government as they ate the food in half an hour from 10 to 10-30, and slept 3½ hours, besides having the 6 A. M and 6 P M meals, all ready cooked for them. There are two messes, one at Tytler's Ghat, and the other at Garden Hill, which have an establishment of 4 cooks, 2 water-bearers (who also split firewood) ; and, when Burmah rice is given them, 2 extra men are obliged to be employed to clean it from filth and husk, which it largely contains.

The mess-gang will be an advantage when the convicts work 10 hours, which will allow them less time for rice ; it will cost more to feed them, 8 pice for food ordinary, allowing them to have vegetable at 64 lbs., fish at 32 lbs., and mutton or beef at 12 lbs, for a rupee :—vegetables 3 times, fish twice, mutton or beef once a week, dholl daily, and once a week a change in quantity of dholl ; cash at 8 annas for 3rd class, 1 rupee for 2nd class, 2 rupees for 1st class and toledars 3 rupees for sub-divisions and mohurrs, 4 rupees for division gangsmen, and all such as are getting at present rupees 8. The quality of food for the different Presidencies should be separate, as the Up-country men prefer attah, ooredh dholl, sugar, and a good large share of ghee ; the Madrassees, rice, dholl, and a large share of chillies salt, pepper, and tamarind and meat ; the Bengalees, rice, urhur dholl, chillies and mustard oil. To keep a regular supply of fish and vegetables, one section of 25 men for gardening, and one section of 25 men for fishing, should be set aside for one division of convicts of 400 in number, to be working under pay from Government, the produce of which should be given to the mess at the lowest fixed rate throughout the year. The self-supporters should be independent from this, who should bring their produce to market for the freemen, of whom a large number are at every station ; and several classes of different kinds of self-supporters would also exchange their castes one with another, for instance, bunniahs, cobblers, barbers, washermen, sweetmeat-makers, potters, &c.

A mohurrir must be set aside, independent of the divisional moonshee, only to attend to the messing, which must be superintended by a trustworthy overseer ; and any complaint the men have to make should be at once taken notice of, and attended to, by the Superintendent or his assistants.

Brahmins and Chetties should be allowed their full caste prejudices, and ought invariably to be picked out as cooks and servants to the messes. I don't think if strict attention be paid to my ideas, that there can be any difficulty in having all the convicts in messes The cooking pots should be of a metal called by natives "phool" or a mixture of brass, and also brass tuslahs.

Pay Account of the Mess Gangsmen for February, 1867

							Rs.	A	P	Rs	A.	P.
Pay of 5 Toledars	at Rs 5-0-0 each	...	..	...	...		25	0	0			
„ 6 1st class men at	„ 5-4-0 each, calculated at As 3-0 per diem	..	.				31	8	0			
„ 37 2nd ditto „ at	„ 4-6-0 „ „ „ 2-6 „	...					161	14	0			
„ 81 3rd ditto „ at	„ 3-8-0 „ „ „ 2-0 „	...	.				283	8	0			
„ 2 3rd ditto „ at	„ 2-10-0 „ for 21 days at „ 2-0 „	...	...				5	4	0			
										507	2	0
	DEDUCT											
Paid to 5 Toledars	at Rs 2-0-0 each	...	...	...	...	...	10	0	0			
„ „ 5 1st class men at	„ 2-0-0 „ 1 1st class died in hospital	..	...				10	0	0			
„ „ 37 2nd „ at	„ 1-0-0 „	...	...	...	...		37	0	0			
„ „ 80 3rd „ at	„ 0-8-0 „ 1 3rd class died in hospital	.	...				40	0	0			
„ „ 2 3rd „ at	„ 0 6-0 „ ...	...	...	..			0	12	0			
							97	12	0			
Hospital stoppages, 487 days at As 1-9 per diem		..	...	...	...		53	4	3			
Oil stoppages, 5 Toledars at	„ 0-9 each „	.	...	...	0 3 9							
6 1st class men at	„ 0-9 „ „	..	..	...	0 4 6							
37 2nd „ at	„ 0-6 „ „	..	...	.	1 2 6							
82 3rd „ at	„ 0-3 „ „	.	...	...	1 4 6		2	15	3			
Rations supplied		..	...	...	...	...	383	4	10			
										537	4	4
						Excess Expenditure ...	...	...	...	30	2	4

DR. *Cash account of the Mess Gang for February, 1867.* CR

1867.		Rs	A	P	1867			Rs.	A	P
Feb.	To Balance last month	30	4	8	Feb	..	By excess expenditure incurred during the month ...	30	2	4
							By Balance in hand ...	0	2	4
	Total, .	30	4	8			Total, ...	30	4	8

(Signed) J. N. HOMFRAY,
Asst. to the Supdt. and in charge of Port Mouat.

Daily Expenses of Rations on account of Mess Gang at

Date.	No. of men belonging to Gang.	No. in Hospital.	No. escaped or died.	No. fed during the month.	Rice.	Dholl.	Ghee.		Chillies.		Onions.		Garlic.		Dhunniah.		Turmeric.	
			Escaped.		lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	oz.	lbs.	oz.	lbs.	oz.	lbs	oz.	lbs.	oz.	lbs.	oz.
1 Feb.	131	20	2	109	176	30	6	13	3	8	1	8	0	10	0	11	0	11
2 „	131	20	2	109	176	30	6	12	3	8	1	8	0	10	0	11	0	11
3 „	131	22	2	106	172	30	6	10	3	8	1	8	0	10	0	11	0	11
4 „	130	18	2	110	172	32	6	14	3	8	1	8	0	10	0	11	0	11
5 „	130	20	2	108	175	30	6	12	3	8	1	12	0	12	0	13	0	13
6 „	130	21	2	107	175	30	6	11	3	8	1	12	0	12	0	13	0	13
7 „	130	23	2	105	174	30	6	8	3	8	1	8	0	10	0	11	0	11
8 „	130	21	...	109	180	30	6	13	4	0	1	8	0	10	0	11	0	11
9 „	130	21	...	109	184	32	6	12	4	0	1	12	0	12	0	13	0	13
10 „	130	19	...	111	188	32	6	15	4	0	1	12	0	12	0	13	0	13
11 „	130	18	...	112	186	32	7	0	4	0	1	12	0	12	0	13	0	13
12 „	130	20	...	110	188	30	6	10	4	0	1	12	0	12	0	13	0	13
13 „	130	22	...	108	181	30	6	12	4	0	1	12	0	12	0	13	0	13
14 „	130	20	...	110	183	32	6	14	4	0	1	12	0	12	0	13	0	13
15 „	130	17	...	113	194	32	7	1	4	0	1	12	0	12	0	13	0	13
16 „	130	17	2	113	182	36	7	1	4	0	1	12	0	12	0	13	0	13
17 „	130	17	...	111	179-8	32	6	15	4	0	1	12	0	12	0	13	0	13
18 „	128	16	1	111	186	34	6	14	4	0	1	12	0	4	0	13	0	13
19 „	127	15	...	112	192	30	6	15	4	0	1	12	0	4	0	13	0	13
20 „	127	16	...	111	190	32	6	15	4	0	1	12	0	4	0	13	0	13
21 „	127	13	...	114	196	30	7	1	4	0	1	12	0	4	0	13	0	13
22 „	127	13	...	114	190	16	6	13	4	0	1	12	0	4	0	13	0	13
23 „	127	12	...	115	198	32	7	3	4	0	1	12	0	4	0	13	0	13
24 „	127	14	...	113	194	30	7	0	4	0	1	8	0	4	0	13	0	13
25 „	127	15	...	112	222	40	6	14	4	0	1	0	0	4	0	13	0	13
26 „	127	16	..	111	214	40	6	12	4	0	1	0	0	4	0	13	0	13
27 „	127	17	...	110	224	44	6	7	4	0	1	0	0	4	0	13	0	13
28 „	127	20	...	107	226	40	6	10	4	0	1	0	0	4	0	13	0	13
	3,611	503	18	3,090	5297-8	898	191	5	108	8	44	4	14	13	22	0	22	0
					165 8 9 at 32 lbs.	28 1 0 at 32 lbs.	54 10 6 at 3½ lbs.		13 9 0 at 8 lbs.		2 12 3 at 16 lbs.		0 11 11 at 20 lbs.		1 6 0 at 16 lbs.		5 8 0 at 4 lbs.	

Tytler's Ghat and Garden Hill for February, 1867.

Pepper.	Salt.	Jeera.	Vegetables.	Fish.	Mutton.	Salt Fish.	Milk, Dohee, or Sugar.	Remarks
lbs. oz.	lbs	lbs. oz		lbs.. oz.				
0 11	16	0 2	...	35 0	...	...	..	
0 11	16	0 2	...	126 0	...	..	...	
0 11	16	0 2	...	151 0	...	...	...	
0 5	14	0 2	...	...	...	...	..	
0 5	12	0 2	...	40 0	4 Sheep 92 lbs.	...	...	
0 5	12	0 2	worth 1-8-0	..	...	...	...	
0 5	12	0 2	...	103 0	...	...	...	
0 5	12	0 2	...	20 0	...	...	...	
...	12	0 2		...	...	...	...	
...	9	0 2	...	...	...	...	...	
...	9	0 2	...	...	...	.	...	
. .	9	0 2	..	39 0	...	...	0 0 3	
...	9	0 2	.	...	4 Sheep 87 lbs.	...	0 1 0	
...	9	0 2	..	64 0	...	.	0 0 6	
...	9	0 2	...	36 0	...	...	0 0 3	
...	9	0 2	...	...	...	...	...	
...	9	0 2	...	...	...	...	...	
...	9	0 2	...	90 0	...	...	0 0 6	
...	9	0 2	...	61 0	...	...	...	
.	9	0 2	...	...	...	...	...	
...	9	0 2	...	69 0	...	...	...	
...	9	0 2	...	85 0	...	...	0 0 6	
...	9	0 2	...	19 0	4 Sheep 80 lbs.	...	0 1 0	
...	9	0 2	...	66 0	...	...	0 0 6	
..	9	0 2	...	114 0	...	...	0 0 6	
...	9	0 2	...	60 0	...	...	0 0 6	
	9	0 2	...	60 0	...	...	...	
..	9	0 2	lbs. 200	...	...	40 lbs.	0 1 0	
3 10	283	3 8	...	1,238	259 lbs.	40	0 6 6	
0 14 6 at 4 lbs.	4 6 9 at 64 lbs.	0 3 6 at 16 lbs.	1 8 0	51 9 4 at 24 lbs.	40 7 6 at 0-2-6 per lb. 8 4 0 Head, Liver and Guts. 48 11 6	3 5 4 at 12 lbs.	0 6 6	383 4 10 Total.

Supplied from Settlement gardens during the month.

(Sd.) J. N. HOMFRAY, *Asst. to Supdt., Port Mouat.*

Daily Expenses of the Mess Gang on account of Rations

Date.	No. of men belonging to Gang.	No. in Hospital.	No escaped or died.	No. fed during the month.	Dholl.	Attah.	Ghee.	Chillies.	Onions.	Garlic.	Dhuniah.
					lbs.		lbs. oz.	lbs. oz.	lbs oz.	lbs. oz	lbs. oz.
1 March	127	23	..	104	34	..	6 7	4 0	0 12	0 10	0 11
2 „	127	24	.. Escaped.	103	34	...	6 7	4 0	0 12	0 10	0 11
3 „	127	26	2	99	32	...	6 4	4 0	0 12	0 10	0 11
4 „	132	25	2	105	30	...	6 10	4 0	0 12	0 10	0 11
5 „	132	23	2	107	36	...	6 12	4 0	0 12	0 10	0 11
6 „	132	21	2	109	38	...	6 11	4 0	0 12	0 10	0 11
7 „	132	26	2	104	38		6 6	4 0	...	0 10	0 11
8 „	132	26	2	104	38	...	6 7	3 12	...	0 10	0 11
9 „	132	24	2	106	36	...	6 9	3 12	...	0 10	0 11
10 „	132	23	2	107	30	30	6 9	3 12	...	0 10	0 11
11 „	132	24	2	106	38	30	6 8	3 10	...	0 10	0 11
12 „	132	23	2	107	40	31	6 11	3 10	...	0 10	0 11
13 „	132	23	2	107	40	30½	6 11	3 10	...	0 10	0 11
14 „	132	23	...	109	40	32	6 13	3 10	...	0 10	0 11
15 „	132	21	...	111	40	32	6 15	4 0	...	0 10	0 11
16 „	132	20		112	40	32	7 0	4 0	...	0 10	0 11
17 „	132	20	...	112	32	32	6 15	4 0	0 8	0 10	0 11
18 „	132	21	...	111	38	32	6 14	4 0	0 8	0 10	0 11
19 „	132	15	...	117	38	36	7 4	4 0	1 8	0 10	0 11
20 „	132	15	...	117	40	36	7 4	4 0	1 8	0 12	0 13
21 „	132	11	...	121	32	36	7 9	4 0	1 8	0 12	0 13
22 „	132	11	...	121	40	36	7 9	4 0	1 8	0 12	0 13
23 „	132	9	...	123	40	53	7 11	4 0	1 8	0 12	0 13
24 „	132	10	...	122	34	58	7 10	4 0	1 8	0 12	0 13
25 „	132	12	...	120	40	57	7 8	4 0	1 8	0 12	0 13
26 „	132	12	..	120	38	56	7 7	4 0	1 8	0 12	0 13
27 „	132	20		112	36	54	7 1	4 0	1 8	0 12	0 13
28 „	132	22	...	110	36	52	6 13	4 0	1 8	0 12	0 13
29 „	132	23	...	109	36	50	6 13	4 0	1 8	0 12	0 13
30 „	132	19	...	113	38	52	6 15	4 0	1 8	0 12	0 13
31 „	132	17	14 out to sea in pursuit of the escaped	101	36	20	6 2	3 8	1 4	0 10	0 11
	4077	610	36	3431	1138	877—8	213 3	121 4	24 12	20 12	22 11
					35 9 0	36 9 0	60 14 6	30 5 0	1 8 9	1 11 8	2 13 6

at Tytler's Ghat and Garden Hill, for March, 1867.

Turmeric.	Pepper.	Salt.	Jeera.	Fish.	Salt Fish.	Vegetables.	Mutton.	Dohee, Milk, or Sugar.	Cloth for the use of the Cooks.	Rice.	Remarks.
lbs. oz.	lbs. oz.	lbs.	lbs. oz.	lbs.	lbs.			Worth		lbs.	
0 11	...	9	0 2	52	...		...	0 0 6		198	
0 11	...	9	0 2	...	41		...	0 1 0		200	
0 11	...	9	0 5	...	42		...	...		164	
0 11	...	9	0 5	...	...		...	...		202	
0 11	...	9	0 5	48	25		...	0 1 0		212	
0 11	...	9	0 4	38	29		...	0 1 0		192	
0 11	...	9	0 4	...	...		...	...		188	
0 11	...	9	0 4	...	...		...	...		192	
0 11	...	9	0 4	...	...		...	...		194	
0 11	...	9	0 4	...	...		...	...		136	
0 11	...	9	0 4	...	...		...	...		164	
0 11	...	9	0 4	108	...		...	...		164	
0 11	...	9	0 4	66	...		...	0 1 0		166	
0 11	...	9	0 4	...	...		...	...		166	
0 11	...	9	0 4	46	...		...	...		170	
0 11	...	9	0 4	...	...		...	...		176	
0 11	...	9	0 4	...	...		...	...		160	
0 11	...	9	0 4	...	...		...	...		174	
0 11	...	9	0 4	...	...		...	...		186	
0 13	...	9	0 4	120	...		...	0 1 0		184	
0 13	...	9	0 4	...	...		3 Sheep 54 lbs.	0 1 0		166	
0 13	...	9	0 4	48	...		...	0 1 0		188	
0 13	...	9	0 4	69	...		...	...		168	
0 13	0 8	9	0 4	30½	...		...	0 0 6		142	
0 13	0 8	9	0 4	101	...		...	0 1 0		167	
0 13	0 12	9	0 4	42	...		...	0 0 6		164	
0 13	0 12	9	0 4	...	...		...	...		156	
0 13	0 12	9	0 4	...	...		...	...		162	
0 13	0 12	9	0 4	...	...		...	...		156	
0 13	0 12	9	0 4	...	...		...	...		164	
0 13	0 10	9	0 4	...	...		...	...		152	
22 11	5 6	279	7 11	768½	137	...	54 lbs.	...	...	5373	
5 10 9	1 5 6	4 5 9	10 1 5	32 0 4	11 6 8	... ...	8 7 0 2 1 0 10 8 0 Head, Liver and Guts	0 9 6	0 9 7	167 14 6	413 14 8 Total.

30

(Sd.) J. N. HOMFRAY, *Asst. to Supdt. Port Mouat.*

Pay Account of the Mess Gangsmen for March, 1867.

	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Pay of 5 Toledars at Rs. 5-0-0 each	25	0	0			
„ 5 1st class men at „ 5-13-0 „	29	1	0			
„ 36 2nd do. do. at „ 4-13-6 „	174	6	0			
„ 86 3rd do. do. at „ 3-14-0 „	333	4	0			
				561	11	0
DEDUCT:						
Paid to 5 Toledars at Rs. 2-0-0 each	10	0	0			
„ 5 1st class men at „ 2-0-0 „	10	0	0			
„ 36 2nd do. at „ 1-0-0 „	36	0	0			
„ 81 3rd do. at „ 0-8-0 „	40	8	0			
„ 5 do. do. 1 at „ 1-0-3, and 4 at As. 0-14-0 each	4	8	3			
	101	0	3			
Hospital stoppages 486 days at As. 0-1-9 per diem	53	2	6			
Refund of subsistence for February omitted to be taken into account last month ...	9	2	3			
OIL DEDUCTIONS.						
5 Toledars at Rs. 0-0-9 each ... ... Rs. 0 3 9 ...						
5 1st class men at „ 0-0-9 „ ... ... „ 0 3 9 ...						
36 2nd do. at „ 0-0-6 „ ... ... „ 1 2 0 ...						
86 3rd do. at „ 0-0-3 „ ... ... „ 1 5 6 ...	2	15	0			
Rations supplied	413	14	8			
				580	2	8
Excess Expenditure ...				18	7	8

DR. *Cash Account of the Mess Gang for March*, 1867. CR.

1867.			Rs.	A.	P.	1867.			Rs.	A.	P.
Mar.	...	To Balance of last month ...	0	2	4	Mar.	...	By excess expenditure incurred during the month ...	18	7	8
								Deficit	18	5	4
		Total, ...	0	2	4			Total, ...	0	2	4

(Signed) J. N. HOMFRAY,
Assistant to Superintendent, in charge, Port Mouat.

No. 483, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will furnish me with the following information:—

1*st*—A nominal roll of men, showing the individual caste of each prisoner now formed into one mess by Mr. Homfray at Garden Hill.

2*nd*.—A nominal roll showing the individual caste of men, who form the Convalescent Messing Depôt at Viper Island.

3*rd*.—A nominal roll showing the individual caste of men, belonging to the chain-gang, who mess together on Viper Island.

4*th*.—A distinct statement is also required as to the quantity and quality and cost of food given to each of the above messes.

5*th*.—It is understood the prisoners working at the Port Mouat station are plentifully supplied with fish, vegetables, (including potatoes), and have also a certain supply of spirits. Are the other two messes supplied in the same manner?

No. 165, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

With reference to paras. 2, 3 and 4 of your letter No. 483 of the 4th instant, I have the honor to forward attached the statements showing the individual castes of invalids and chain-gangmen at Viper Island; as also the statements showing the quantity, quality, and cost of food given to each of the men of the mess-gangs referred to.

Statement showing the quantity, quality, and cost of food given to each individual in the chain-gang mess at Viper Island.

Description of Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			Quality.	Remarks.
	lbs.	oz.	Rs.	As.	P.		
Rice ...	1	8	0	0	9	Good.	
Dholl ...	0	8	0	0	3	do.	
Ghee ...	0	1	0	0	3	do.	
Curry Stuff and Salt.	0	1½	0	0	2	do.	
Fish ...	0	4	0	0	4	do.	Fish is given twice a week when obtained.
Vegetables ...	0	8	0	0	3	do.	Ditto ditto ditto.
Mutton ...	0	4	0	0	7½	do.	Mutton is supplied to Hindoos marked A. twice a week at 4oz. per each man.
Beef ...	0	4	0	0	5½	do.	Beef is supplied to Mussulmen marked B. twice a week at 4 oz. per each man.

On an average for 176 men at Rs. 0-1-9 per diem per man is equal to Rs. 19-4-0.

(Sd.) B. FORD, Lieut.-Colonel,
Superintendent, Port Blair.

The 14th May, 1867.

Statement showing the quantity, quality, and cost of food given to the Convalescents on Viper Island.

Description of Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			Quality.	Remarks.
	lbs.	oz.	Rs.	A.	P.		
Rice	1	0	0	0	6	Good.	
Dholl	0	8	0	0	3	do.	
Ghee	0	1	0	0	3	do.	
Curry Stuff and Salt..	0	1½	0	0	2	do.	
Fish	0	4	0	0	4	do.	Fish is given twice a week if obtained.
Vegetables	0	8	0	0	3	do.	Vegetable ditto ditto.
Mutton	0	3	0	0	6	do.	To Hindoos thrice a week at 3 oz. each man.
Beef	0	3	0	0	4	do.	„ Mussulmen ditto „ 3 ditto ditto.
			0	2	7		

On an average, the expenses for 78 Hindoos and 45 Mussulmen, total 123, at Rs. 0-1-9 per man per diem, is equal to Rs. 13-7-3.

(Sd.) B. FORD, Lieut.-Colonel,
Superintendent, Port Blair.

Nominal Roll showing the individual Caste of men belonging to the Chain Gang who are messed together on Viper Island.

No.	General Number.	Names.	Caste.	No.	General Number.	Names.	Caste.
			Hindoos.				Hindoos.
1	9321	Koonee Rah ...	Pariah.	12	9576	Gudu Girdharee ...	Barber, (*a.*)
2	8323	Potu Rah ...	Ditto, (*a.*)	13	10200	Sittaram ...	Pariah, (*a.*)
3	9318	Nayah ...	Ditto.	14	12819	Matab Singh ...	Rajpoot.
4	7279	Ram Singh ...	Sheik.	15	1364	Oogur ...	Brahmin.
5	10624	Zoolmee Singh ...	Ditto.	16	13517	Nugjee ...	Sheik.
6	11446	Gengasah ...	Brahmin, (*a.*)	17	10817	Chultum ...	Murwar.
7	10738	Teekah ...	Buniah,(*a.*)	18	6726	Bindoo ...	Passee.
8	10248	Runglal ...	Akeer.	19	6727	Boodhoo ...	Bheel.
9	10093	Mulla Gundadoo ..	Barber,(*a.*)	20	6074	Runkroo *alias* Rundu...	Pariah.
10	10616	Ram Kishun ...	Ditto.	21	12303	Renoothnosub ...	Chumar.
11	9864	Rootee Godso ...	Pariah.	22	9553	Gungadass ...	Buijee.

Those marked (*a*) get mutton twice a week.

Nominal Roll showing the individual Caste of men belonging to the Chain Gang who are messed together on Viper Island.—(Concluded.)

No.	General Number.	Names.	Caste.	No.	General Number.	Names	Caste.
			Hindoos.				Hindoos.
23	7768	Mahabeer ...	Brahmin.	74	11032	Puncharam ...	Pariah.
24	12213	Leokoorupwar ...	Barber.	75	11746	Simloo ...	Ditto.
25	12214	Luchoo Rajwar ...	Bagdee.	76	6420	Lukkee Narrain ...	Ditto.
26	10294	Hunsraj Bunsee ...	Kayet.	77	11162	Eemla Ura ...	Ditto.
27	10303	Kunaram Ghose ...	Pariah.	78	10810	Bhawanee ...	Ditto.
28	9200	Chennoo Godoo ...	Ditto.	79	11250	Khoomanee ...	Ditto.
29	9766	Suokala Venkutee G....	Milkman.	80	6908	Mumoolal ...	Ditto.
30	5629	Rungapa ...	Pariah, (*a*)	81	9063	Lullay ...	Ditto.
31	9769	Kurkalee Gungudoo ...	Singuh.	82	7405	Leedah ...	Ditto.
32	6796	Nowsung ...	Fisherman	83	12626	Hurrajee ...	Ditto.
33	6484	Baloo ...	Passee.	84	9679	Venkutsamy ...	Ditto.
34	9314	Nursingh .	Bunjarah.	85	6898	Sevkea ...	Ditto.
35	10090	Dhoodia Mullee ...	Bagdee.	86	7478	Sairah ...	Ditto.
36	7638	Mohun ...	Gowalla.	87	11613	Chenchoo Nursoomulloo ...	Ditto
37	13195	Nagon ...	Chumar.	88	11619	Oordumakdor ...	Ditto.
38	11563	Dana ...	Chuttree.	89	12354	Raman Chimon ...	Ditto.
39	12067	Mugjee ...	Juth.	90	12950	Bullaree Rama ...	Ditto.
40	12089	Odah ..	Ditto.	91	9246	Raimul Doss ...	Ditto.
41	10210	Futtah .	Bunjarah, (*a*)	92	11552	Nutto ...	Ditto.
42	10296	Deenno Maithee ...	Kayet.	93	11329	Rollia ...	Ditto.
43	10241	Ramah ...	Bunjarah, (*a*.)	94	10904	Deenah ...	Ditto.
44	11316	Daooh ...	Juth.	95	4715	Esur Bagdee ...	Ditto.
45	8741	Shohumkee ...	Bagdee, (*a*)	96	12226	Samchera ...	Ditto.
46	12223	Purthale ...	Buniah, (*a*)	97	12221	Ditto ...	Ditto.
47	12224	Mullak Bulake	Passee, (*a*)	98	8288	Shama ...	Ditto.
48	8740	Rugeeo ...	Juth, (*a*.)	99	4373	Chedda .	Ditto.
49	9347	Nemu Kurumdaoo ...	Singah	100	9682	Sookalee Lutchmoo ...	Ditto.
50	9840	Venketanursoo ...	Cattlekeeper, (*a*.)	101	9680	Eronkal Dalaydoo ...	Ditto.
51	9831	Chenakavboodoo ...	Pariah, (*a*.)	102	9758	Roola Rungroo ...	Ditto.
52	9836	Sunnay Khan ..	Ditto.	103	11573	Meetah ...	Ditto.
53	9933	Jugalnogadoo Dunyah	Ditto.	104	10537	Soonderjuna ...	Ditto.
54	9952	Gurgsunah ...	Ditto.	105	10574	Kanantoo ...	Ditto.
55	6343	Oomurchundugah ...	Kyet, (*a*.)	106	8565	Bolack ...	Ditto.
56	9119	Mothee Singh ...	Chutree.	107	10081	Alramroo ...	Ditto.
57	3654	Dhokaloo ...	Rajpoot.	108	8695	Timmadoo ..	Ditto.
58	8706	Sarulleah ...	Pariah.	109	9703	Ronjee Ditto ...	Ditto.
59	9953	Nurjeegadoo ...	Ditto, (*a*.)	110	10645	Dasso Ouja ...	Ditto.
60	9357	Hunnuthgadoo ...	Bunjurah.	111	10215	Allum ...	Ditto.
61	10905	Binda Ameer ...	Oheer.	112	9746	Runderoo ...	Ditto.
62	11325	Goolanah ...	Chutree.	113	9759	Mukkigaddor ...	Ditto.
63	10087	Goomura Chetty	Pariah.	114	9704	Raman Ditto ...	Ditto.
64	2010	Sunaram ...	Ditto	115	13496	Jukradu ...	Ditto.
65	7885	Bowan Shunker ...	Ditto.	116	13162	Sooriah ..	Ditto.
66	11497	Roopah ...	Ditto.	117	14006	Knonadoo ...	Ditto.
67	9271	Mullapoh	Ditto.	118	13853	Krisonto .	Ditto.
68	8771	Rurouth ...	Ditto.	118	Total in the Chain Gang Hindooo Mess, out of which the men marked (*a*) get mutton 4 oz. twice a week, as recommended by the Medical Officer.		
69	9359	Hurregalloo ...	Ditto.				
70	1039	Matab Mundle ...	Ditto.				
71	13161	Buggah ...	Ditto.				
72	13160	Radliah ...	Ditto.				
73	11027	Sham Sharan	Ditto.				

Those marked (*a*) get mutton twice a week.

Port Blair,
4th May 1867.

(Signed) B. FORD, Lieut.-Col.
Superintendent, Port Blair.

Nominal Roll shewing the individual Caste of men belonging to the Gang who mess together on Viper Island.

No.	General No.	Names	Caste.	No.	General No.	Names.	Caste.
			Mussulmen				Mussulmen.
1	8790	Roy Mundle ...	Shaik, (*b.*)	33	9148	Nagoo Khan ...	Pathan, (*b*)
2	1285	Batoo-gadoo ..	Do. (*b*)	34	10976	Ali Bux ...	Do.
3	9939	Chenga Nursee ...	Do.	35	11160	Mutto ...	Shaik.
4	9335	Karkoor ...	Do. (*b.*)	36	12802	Asmut Khan ...	Pathan.
5	8917	Shaik Mungul ..	Do.	37	11617	Goowan ...	Do (*b.*)
6	13655	Jeeva ...	Pathan.	38	13520	Deendyal ...	Barber.
7	9130	Auntah ...	Mogul.	39	11337	Kalla ...	Pathan.
8	8494	Doorga ...	Shaik, (*b.*)	40	11781	Rahiman Khan ...	Do.
9	9671	Jankee ..	Do. (*b*)	41	Released Convict.	Deen Mahomed ...	Shaik (*b.*)
10	5152	Poonjoo ...	Do.				
11	8459	Molah ...	Do.	42	6558	Chebetta ...	Do. (*b.*)
12	10635	Shumshair ..	Pathan.	43	5866	Tummeon ...	Do. (*b.*)
13	5796	Kulwa ...	Chumar.	44	11838	Kassim ...	Do. (*b.*)
14	12787	Bawa ...	Do.	45	12789	Bahadoor Pehan ..	Pathan.
15	7118	Alumsha ..	Pathan.	46	9698	Mal Garoo ...	Barber (*b.*)
16	6817	Sutan Khan ...	Do. (*b.*)	47	5422	Deen Mahomet ...	Pathan (*b.*)
17	12027	Kungroo ...	Shaik.	48	3732	Raeekel (Burman) ...	Burmese
18	6780	Bankerate ...	Do.	49	9614	Sharnee ...	Do.
19	12799	Mahomed Shaik ..	Do.	50	9859	Shaitoh ...	Do.
20	11381	Luskara ...	Pathan.	51	9437	Nya Kandoo ...	Do.
21	11462	Bugga ..	Do.	52	9611	Kootea ...	Do.
22	9239	Busla ..	Do.	53	9400	Tawoo ...	Do.
23	8668	Maira ..	Do.	54	8259	Chowkah ...	Do.
24	12801	Bahadoor ...	Do. (*b.*)	55	8266	Shoydeen ...	Do.
25	9235	Joyland ...	Do.	56	9652	Musoongee ..	Bombay Mussulman.
26	9579	Suggoor ...	Shaik.				
27	12830	Surdar ..	Pathan.	57	11425	Fuzratta ..	Barber.
28	12793	Mooker ...	Do.	58	4085	Zassukah ...	Pathan.
29	12810	Kander ...	Do.				
30	12811	Ross ...	Do. (*b.*)				
31	12820	Ahmaz ...	Pathan.				
32	1121	Shaik Chaund ..	Shaik				

Total fifty Mussulmen and eight Burmans mess in the chain gang, out of which the men marked (*b*) get 4 ounces of beef twice a week as recommended by the Senior Medical Officer.

* Those marked (*b.*) get beef.

(Signed) B. FORD, Lieut.-Colonel,
Superintendent, Port Blair.

Nominal Roll shewing the individual Caste of men who form the Convaleescent Depôt at Viper Island.

No.	General No.	Names.	Caste.	No.	General No.	Names.	Caste.
			Hindoos.				Hindoos.
1	10455	Pookim ...	Sonar, (*a.*)	17	8709	Maneegaroo ...	Naik, (*a*)
2	12907	Golanbing ...	Ditto, (*a.*)	18	12334	Mohoodamak ..	Dhanuk, (*a.*)
3	7016	Bawa Goalah ..	Water-bearer, (*a.*)	19	7666	Katapunchaney ...	Koornee, (*a.*)
4	5004	Juswithgeer ...	Gossein, (*a.*)	20	7674	Harkoodoosad ...	Chamar, (*a.*)
5	8676	Mangulukah ...	Koormee, (*a.*)	21	6953	Kathan ...	Sooree, (*a.*)
6	8072	Garnangen ...	Ditto, (*a*)	22	13166	Kootheah ...	Ditto, (*a.*)
7	6358	Gopaul ...	Bunniah, (*a*)	23	4817	Oomrah ..	Ditto, (*a*)
8	10887	Kunthansal ...	Ditto, (*a.*)	24	5554	Kishore ..	Ditto, (*a*)
9	10417	Apookranchund ...	Ditto, (*a.*)	25	12026	Howlak Kawria ...	Ditto, (*a.*)
10	10487	Manak Doss ...	Byragee, (*a.*)	26	9797	Chucklah ...	Pasee, (*a.*)
11	9889	Ramsoobannaik ...	Naik, (*a.*)	27	5747	Deedydoyal ...	Ditto, (*a.*)
12	10432	Katoobewah ..	Pariah, (*a.*)	28	12469	Chuncapah ...	Naik, (*a.*)
13	12275	Surrunger ...	Ditto, (*a*)	29	6688	Gangram Doss ...	Ditto, (*a.*)
14	10874	Bachoo ...	Jagee, (*a*)	30	5967	Dabey ...	Ditto, (*a.*)
15	11217	Amratta ...	Lohar, (*a*)	31	12599	Balkishen ...	Khetry, (*a.*)
16	8008	Doohen ...	Chuttree, (*a*)	32	126011	Mensah ...	Ditto, (*a*)

Those marked (*a*) are supplied with mutton three times a week.

Nominal Roll shewing the individual Caste of men who form the Convalescent Depôt at Viper Island—(Continued)

No.	General No.	Names	Caste.	No.	General No.	Names.	Caste
			Hindoos.				Hindoos
33	9787	Mooneva Koonden ...	Pariah, (*a.*)	58	11946	Makund Sing ...	Thakoor, (*a.*)
34	11275	Gokoolding ..	Tagore, (*a.*)	59	11676	Sunkurnauth ...	Ditto, (*a*)
35	12295	Sheo Cherang ..	Chamar, (*a.*)	60	11051	Bhowanee ...	Ditto, (*a.*)
36	12558	Namariah ...	Padiachey, (*a.*)	61	12252	Laloo ...	Ditto, (*a.*)
37	12868	Mathabing ...	Chamar, (*a.*)	62	6046	Prem Chand ..	Bagee, (*a*)
38	12681	Goorah ...	Pasee, (*a.*)	63	7186	Kinnan ...	Ditto, (*a.*)
39	7573	Jhoney ..	Ditto, (*a.*)	64	7210	Goolah ..	Ditto, (*a.*)
40	11963	Lookoor ...	Barber, (*a.*)	65	7187	Tholsah ...	Barik, (*a*)
41	7148	Bisrang ...	Tagore. (*a.*)	66	7942	Bheemah ...	Ditto, (*a.*)
42	12664	Paachcet ...	Brahmin, (*a.*)	67	10156	Mohone ...	Ditto, (*a*)
43	12909	Kuthoo ...	Tagore, (*a*)	68	9322	Narrainapah ...	Pariah, (*a.*)
44	12026	Thillokaath ...	Brahmin, (*a*)	69	14232	Lotun ..	Brahmin, (*a*)
45	10199	Comla Dhoby ...	Washerman, (*a*)	70	14235	Burmathee (Fem) ...	Koormee, (*a*)
46	9736	Gorramathey ...	Pariah, (*a.*)	71	14090	Doolaree do. ..	Ditto, (*a*)
47	10682	Badee Gowalah ...	Water-bearer, (*a*)	72	9974	Soogram ...	Coeburta, (*a.*)
48	12475	Sanepa Koonthen ...	Pariah, (*a*)	73	12499	Anlorel Chetty ..	Chêtty, (*a.*)
49	11674	Nagoo ..	Bunniah, (*a.*)	74	7253	Namdah ...	Chamar, (*a*)
50	7557	Hurdeal ...	Ditto (*a*)	75	12924	Doorgee (Female.) ..	Koormee, (*a*)
51	11926	Sajan Jeenah ...	Coeburta, (*a.*)	76	5683	Kokanah do. ...	Chutree, (*a*)
52	12507	Kelakomdegaloo ...	Pariah, (*a.*)	77	8105	Bereengee do. .	Ditto, (*a.*)
53	13232	Gungah ...	Thakoor, (*a.*)	78	6198	Sreemunt Soondre do .	Kahar, (*a.*)
54	13152	Thotah ..	Ditto, (*a.*)				
55	6499	Manoo ...	Ditto, (*a.*)				
56	10181	Kasho ...	Bearer, (*a*)				
57	11761	Goremundal ...	Ditto, (*a*)				

Total 78 Hindoos, who get mutton three times a week, as marked above (*a*) by order of the Doctor at 3 oz. each.

Those marked (*a.*) are supplied with mutton three times a week.

(Signed) B FORD, Lieut.-Col.,
Superintendent, Port Blair

Master Roll shewing the individual Caste of men who form the Convalescent Depôt at Viper Island

No	General No	Names.	Caste	No	General No	Names.	Caste.
			Mussulmen.				Mussulmen.
1	12373	Kurmulkungee ...	Mussulman, (*b*)	25	11509	Johahir ...	Mussulman, (*b.*)
2	12383	Koyalle Kurpul ..	Ditto (*b*)	26	7162	Futtel Mundul ...	Ditto (*b.*)
3	4873	Syed Shah ...	Ditto (*b*)	27	8872	Gossin ..	Ditto (*b*)
4	9656	Batoosaib ...	Ditto (*b.*)	28	6574	Futted Khan ...	Ditto (*b.*)
5	9464	Guffloor ...	Ditto (*b.*)	29	11479	Luttoo ...	Ditto (*b*)
6	10986	Bahadoor Khan ..	Ditto (*b*)	30	6157	Ketogee ...	Ditto (*b.*)
7	11407	Fakeer Babajee ...	Ditto (*b*)	31	7197	Shaik Rohee ..	Ditto (*b.*)
8	9601	Yenkool ...	Ditto (*b*)	32	8220	Womesh ...	Ditto (*b.*)
9	7868	Mahamed Esoof ...	Ditto (*b*)	33	13531	Peeroo ...	Ditto (*b*)
10	9603	Ramdoolyah ...	Ditto (*b.*)	34	8770	Nahoon ...	Ditto (*b.*)
11	9031	Joyram ...	Ditto (*b*)	35	10316	Prelad Shaik ...	Ditto (*b*)
12	1639	Veerasessum . .	Ditto (*b*)	36	11555	Motab Sirkir ...	Ditto (*b*)
13	11895	Meerjubra ...	Ditto (*b.*)	37	11514	Elahee Bux ...	Ditto (*b*)
14	7216	Lukedesha ...	Ditto (*b.*)	38	11349	Moolah ..	Ditto (*b*)
15	6535	Gooraboolah ...	Ditto (*b.*)	39	12896	Peer Bux ...	Ditto (*b*)
16	6125	Kisunatty ..	Ditto (*b.*)	40	7549	Fatredoolah ...	Ditto (*b*)
17	1793	Hossein Khan ...	Ditto (*b*)	41	12106	Jubber Massah ...	Ditto (*b*)
18	8615	Mahomed Bux .	Ditto (*b.*)	42	12286	Jehangeer ...	Ditto (*b*)
19	11913	Batta Madhen ..	Ditto (*b.*)	43	4881	Abdoolah ...	Ditto (*b.*)
20	12608	Loobha	Ditto (*b.*)	44	13509	Jur Khan ..	Ditto (*b*)
21	12018	Gungerputty	Ditto (*b*)	45	5866	Woozerone (*Female*).	Ditto (*b*)
22	11933	Fareed ..	Ditto (*b*)				
23	12609	Paja Shaik	Ditto (*b*)				
24	12834	Kave Ubux .	Ditto (*b.*)				

Total 45 Mussulmen, who get beef three times a week, as marked (*b*) above, and are supplied at the rate of 3 oz. each, by order of the Doctor.

Those marked (*b*) are supplied with beef three times a week.

(Signed) B. FORD, Lieut.-Colonel,
Superintendent, Port Blair.

Port Blair, 14*th May* 1867

No. 136, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 483, dated 4th instant, calling for certain information from Port Mouat.

2. In reply I beg to forward you copies of communications* from Mr. Homfray, Assistant to the Superintendent, and in charge of Port Mouat.

* Letter No E, dated 10th May 1867, a statement showing the castes of convicts messing at Port Mouat, and a scale of rations allowed to each man.

3. Mr. Homfray has not had time to give the nominal roll called for (as he states, in your 1st, but he should have stated in your 1st, 2nd and 3rd clauses), he has, however, given an abstract of castes of the men who are messed.

4. Mr. Homfray gives full information as to the cost of food issued. As regards condiments, he is obliged to fix that at an average rate.

5. He also gives some particulars as regards the supply of fish, vegetables, and potatoes that have been issued to the Port Mouat mess gang.

6 Mr. Homfray has not afforded the information called for in the last clause of your letter, which I have, however, written to him to expedite as soon as possible.

P. S—Since this letter was written, I have received a nominal roll from Mr Homfray showing the individual caste of each convict now being messed at Garden Hill, which I attach in original.

No. E.

From—J. N. Homfray, Esq, *Assistant to Superintendent, in charge, Port Mouat,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Memo. No. 166 of the 6th instant, forwarding extract from letter No. 483 of the 4th instant, from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, to your address. In reply, I beg to state that the information required in para 1 is now in hand at Port Mouat, and will be forwarded as early as possible. With regard to para. 4, a statement is herewith attached, and with reference to para 5, I beg to state that since last July to March, being nine months, I was able to supply the men well with vegetables, which latterly, during the hot season for want of water, failed in being kept up. However, I had fortunately laid by a stock of yams, sweet potatoes, and pumpkins, which allowed me to issue a lb. twice in a week Had I all the ground at present cleared under cultivation during the whole of the rains, I might have been better able to supply them with greater quantities Seeing that I would run out of vegetables before next crop, which would be in June, I have purchased for my division potatoes so as to keep off scurvy which is about this season of the year generally increasing. From November to March, being five months, my stakes have supplied me with large quantities of fish. I could not well spare the men previous to that, as it requires 20 of them to work stakes, otherwise it should not be attempted, but since April 11 fishermen escaped in two canoes, and thus I have been reduced in supplies which, I trust, will again soon revive. The issue of one dram of rum daily to every prisoner was recommended by the late Dr. Morton, Surgeon Major and Senior Medical Officer of this station, and has been carried out a twelve-month; this indulgence I believe is given at the clearing of any new Station, owing to the extra labor required in using the axe, and exposing virgin soil to the malarious atmosphere that surrounds the jungles.

Scale of Rations allowed to each man per diem in the Mess Gang at Port Mouat

Names of Articles.	Quantity.		Cost.			Remarks.
	lbs	oz.	Rs.	As	P.	
Rice	1	10	0	0	9¾	
Dholl	0	6	0	0	2¼	
Ghee ..	0	1	0	0	3½	
Turmeric . ..	0	⅛	0	0	0	Curry stuff cannot be properly calculated, as the price varies in the Commissarat, but on an average is issued according to the scale, if means will admit, which must not exceed more than 3½ pies. These are issued daily.
Coriander Seed ...	0	⅛	0	0	0	
Pepper	0	⅛	0	0	0	
Garlic	0	⅛	0	0	0	
Cummin Seed ..	0	1/16	0	0	3½	
Maitha ..	0	1/16	0	0	0	
Rye ...	0	1/16	0	0	0	
Chilies	0	⅛	0	0	0	
Onions	0	¼	0	0	0	
Salt	0	1	0	0	0 3/16	At 64 lbs. per Rupee.
Total ..	..	..	0	1	7¾	

Scale of Rations allowed to each man per diem in the Mess-Gang at Port Mouat. —(Concluded.)

Names of Articles.	Quantity.		Cost.			Remarks.
	lb.	oz.	Rs.	As.	P.	
Vegetables	0	6	0	0	2¼	At 32 lbs. per Rupee. } When procurable issued alternately.
Fish	0	6	0	0	3	„ 24 „ „ do.
Mutton	0	3-½	0	0	6	„ 6½ „ „ do.
Extras.						
Salt Fish	These are given only at times when any of them express a wish to eat such things, and means will admit of it. Small quantities are given in lieu of any of the foregoing articles,					Gratis from Government.—Firewood, Water, Cooking-utensils, Cooks and Water-bearers.
Attah						
Beef						
Milk						
Dohee						
Sugar						

(Sd.) J. M. HOMFRAY,
Assistant to Supdt., in charge, Port Mouat.

Statement showing the Castes of the Convicts messing at Port Mouat.

Gradation No.	Names of the Castes.	Remarks.
	Hindoos.	
1	Brahmins	There are none amongst the Madrassee mess.
2	Chuttrees	
3	Pillays	Fit to cook for the lower castes.
4	Chuttees	
5	Pallees	
6	Bunniahs.	
7	Joalahs.	
8	Bungarahs.	
9	Barbers.	
10	Washermen.	
11	Pariahs.	
12	Chumars.	
13	Bhangees.	
14	Mussulmen.	

(Sd.) J. N. HOMFRAY,
Assistant to Supdt., in charge, Port Mouat.

Nominal Roll of men shewing the individual Caste of each prisoner now formed into Mess at "Garden Hill."

Names.	Castes.	Remarks.
Lutchmun, section Gangsman ...	Hindoo, Linga Bunjee.	Trader and Cultivator.
Unkatah, „ „ ...	„ Korcha, (Dome).	
Mootun, „ „ ...	„ Ditto.	
Chinapilly, labouring convict ...	„ Linga Bunjee.	
Koollem, „ ...	„ Korcha.	
China Rungah „ ...	„ Ditto.	
Ochapun, „ ...	„ Linga Bunjee.	
Myah, „ ...	„ Ditto do.	
Kakayee Unkatun, „ ...	„ Karcha.	
Sookalu Ramjee, „ ..	„ Bunjara.	
Balakeree Sobadoo, „ ...	„ Linga Bunjee.	
Ekamirroo „ ...	„ Malwur (Chumar).	
Govindun „ ...	„ Linga Bunjee.	
Barig Sahim „ ...	„ Ditto do.	
Gungannah Naik, „ ...	„ Ditto do.	
Kristappah Chitty, „ ...	„ Gundla (Oilman).	
Tadaval Chitty, „ ..	„ Linga Bunjee.	
Birmannah, „ ...	„ Ditto do.	
Unkatah, „ ...	„ Korcha.	
Norainah Nakin, „ ...	„ Linga Bunjee.	

Nominal Roll of men shewing the individual Caste of each prisoner now formed into Mess at "Garden Hill."—(Concluded.)

Names.		Caste.	Remarks
Keeto,	Laboring Convict	Hindoo Bunjara.	
Sokalu Pitiah,	"	" do.	
Teyiah,	"	" Linga Bunjee.	
Jeymolugaroo,	"	" Goolaweroo. (Cattle keeper).	
Poloor Chungaroon,	"	" Ditto.	
Sungroo,	"	" Ditto.	
Motroo Kotroo,	"	" Eanaree. (Grammunee).	
Komarinday,	"	" Linga Bunjee.	
Uppoo Garoo,	"	" Eanaree.	
Ekseree Moslugaroo,	"	" Ditto.	
Garruppa,	"	" Motraj (Shikaree).	
Kalakungroo,	"	" Korcha.	
Ovah Ramun,	"	" Ditto.	
Mutroo *alias* Modtun,	"	" Malwur.	
Muddoo Soolay,	"	" Eanaree	
Nagroo,	"	" Malwur.	
Elloo Garoo,	"	" Eanaree.	
Goola Uppoo,	"	" Golaweroo (Cattle-keeper).	
Mungala Garoo,	"	" Boyah (Cooley).	

(Sd.) J. N. HOMFRAY,
Asst. to Supdt, in charge, Port Moat.

No. 556, dated 11th May, 1867.

Memo from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Harbour Master, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request you will be good enough to inform him why the system of messing convicts in the Marine Department at Ross was discontinued, and how long, after you relieved Mr. Homfray, was the mess broken up.

No. 24, dated , 1867

From—C. Darwood, Esq., *Harbour Master, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In compliance with your Memorandum No. 556 of this day's date, I have the honor to annex copy of a letter No. 34, dated the 29th August 1866, addressed by me to the Superintendent of Port Blair, explaining the reasons for which the system of messing in the 9th Division was discontinued. This took place about 20 days after my relieving Mr. Homfray.

No. 34, dated 29th August, 1866.

From—C. Darwood, Esq., *Harbour Master, Port Blair,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 699, of yesterday's date, regarding the system of mess-gang in the 9th Division, and in reply thereto I beg to state, that only a small portion (66 men) of the 9th Division was formed into a mess-gang; and on complaints being made to me by the men composing it, only one-third of their subsistence allowance was given them, and the rest deducted for their rations, and they begged me to place them on the same system as the rest of the prisoners in the 9th Division. I thought it best to abolish the mess-gang, and place the men composing it on the same footing as the rest. Up to the present time, they seem to be contented with the change.

No. 320, dated 18th April, 1867.

Memo from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—The Senior Medical Officer, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to annex copy of Dr. Morton's Mortuary Returns for the months of August and September 1866. These returns show 79 and 60 deaths for the above months. I request you will favor me with a Nominal Roll of these deceased men, and state at what stations they became sick; where they died; their ages; how long they had been on the Settlement Rolls, and how long each of them served on Ross Island before being removed to any other station.

No. 838, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo. from—A. J. Cowie, Esq., *Senior Medical Officer, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah*

The undersigned has the honor to forward Nominal Rolls for the months of August and September 1866, as called for in Memo. No. 320 of the 18th instant. He is unable to state how long each individual had been on Ross Island.

Nominal Roll of Convicts who died in August 1866.

General No.	Names.	Age.	Date of arrival in the Settlement.	Disease where contracted.	Place of Death.	Date of Death
9352	Ramadoo ...	30	16th April 1865 .	Ross Island ...	Ross Island,	1st August 1866.
12065	Romsingh ...	50	12th February 1866,...	Do. ..	Do. ...	1st Do.
12886	Shoonlbi ..	40	5th May 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. .	1st Do.
9201	Chinneegadoo ...	35	19th January 1865 ...	Aberdeen ...	Do. ...	1st Do.
12598	Busseah ..	38	12th April 1866 ...	Ross Island ...	Do.	2nd Do.
.....	Maygha ..	40	... .	Haddo ..	Do.	2nd Do
11228	Ummer Singh ...	35	11th December 1865,	Mount Harriet .	Do. .	2nd Do.
12122	Beharee ..	32	17th March 1866 ...	Ross Island .	Do. ...	3rd Do.
12711	Seooraj ..	30	21st April 1866	Do. ...	Do. ..	4th Do.
11354	Bunjee ..	40	9th April 1866	Do. ..	Do. ...	4th Do.
12565	Visrajee ..	80	21st April 1866 ...	Do ...	Do. ...	5th Do.
11860	Chajew ...	40	12th February 1866 .	Port Mouat .	Do.	8th Do
3935	Koliah ..	32	... .	Ross Island ...	Do. ...	10th Do.
10756	Thajaw ...	30	11th December 1865,	Aberdeen ...	Do. ..	11th Do.
12551	Venketsawmy ..	50	12th April 1866 ...	Port Mouat ...	Do. ...	11th Do.
9380	Shaik Kummaul ...	32	31st May 1866 ..	Aberdeen ...	Do. ...	12th Do.
12057	Soontha ..	32	12th February 1866,	Ross Island	Do. ...	14th Do.
11044	Mathyah .	50	11th December 1865,	Hope Town ...	Do. ...	14th Do.
12386	Urchah ...	32	12th April 1866 ...	Viper Island ...	Do. ...	15th Do
12054	Gnathee Singh ...	50	12th February 1866,	Ross Island ...	Do. ..	16th Do
12290	Gopaul ..	32	9th April 1866 ...	Aberdeen .	Do. ..	18th Do.
5654	Anuamaun ..	45	4th May 1862 ..	Ross Island ...	Do. ...	18th Do.
11954	Heera Lall ..	32	18th February 1866,	Do ...	Do. ...	19th Do.
11229	Inthraj ..	40	11th December 1865,	Mount Harriet,	Do. ...	19th Do.
12519	Chengleraydoa ...	32	12th April 1866 ...	Ross Island .	Do. ..	19th Do.
12425	Gunganah ...	35	12th April 1866 ..	Port Mouat ...	Do.	19th Do.
11924	Pillarom ..	30	12th February 1866,	Ross Island ...	Do. ...	20th Do.
113 9	Koyah ...	28	9th January 1866 ...	Hope Town ...	Do. ...	21st Do.
11313	Ajeet Singh ...	50	9th January 1866 ...	Ross Island ...	Do. ..	22nd Do.
10334	Ansarow ...	50	14th November 1865,	Mount Harriet,	Do. ...	23rd Do
12627	Bugwannee ..	35	21st April 1866 ..	Ross Island ...	Do. ...	23th Do.
12647	Gunnasee ...	45	21st April 1866 ...	Do ...	Do ...	26th Do
12639	Joteeram ..	30	12th April 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	26th Do.
8038	Mootian ..	50	31st August 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	26th Do.
12906	Ummer Singh ..	35	5th May 1866 ...	Do. .	Do. ...	26th Do
12058	Beerun ...	30	12th February 1867,	Port Mouat ...	Do	26th Do.
4696	Salmeen ...	32	16th January 1866 ..	Ross Island ...	Do. ...	27th Do.
8907	Deen Dayall ...	80	22nd October 1864...	Mount Harriet ..	Do.	27th Do
11653	Kundaa ...	28	11th January 1866 ...	Ross Island ..	Do. ...	28th Do.
9435	Kurroapen ...	30	13th June 1865 ...	Port Mouat ...	Do. ..	28th Do.
9861	China Monia ...	35	27th September 1865,	Ross Island . .	Do. ...	29th Do
9880	Kader Bux ...	40	27th September 1865,	Aberdeen ...	Do. ...	31st Do.
12014	Subbee Mangee	35	12th February 1865...	Port Mouat ...	Port Mouat,	13th Do.
11906	Thurnee Dass ...	45	18th February 1866 ..	Do. ...	Do. ..	4th Do.
12082	Neazoo Fakeer ..	24	12th February 1866 ..	Do. ...	Do. ..	5th Do.
11715	Mathoo ..	35	16th January 1866	Do ..	Do .	15th Do.
12395	Pulleecoaden Thauen,	38	12th April 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. ..	16th Do.
10518	Colum .	38	29th October 1865	Do ...	Do .	18th Do.
11138	Sukkun Mangee ..	45	11th December 1865,	Do. ...	Do. ..	20th Do.
9285	Govind Chetty ...	35	28th January 1865 .	Do. ...	Do. ..	31st Do.
12385	Thummon ...	50	2nd April 1866 ...	Viper Island	Viper Island	9th Do.
7868	Rojee	28	26th October 1863 ...	Do. .	Do . .	13th Do.
11463	Malud	55	9th January 1866	Do. ...	Do .	15th Do.
12292	Bugga Singh	55	9th April 1866 ...	Do. ..	Do. ...	16th Do.
11485	Nahal Singh ..	35	9th January 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do	17th Do.
9815	Kalie Gundoo	30	27th September 1865,	Do. ...	Do.	19th Do
11959	Doorgah ...	60	18th February 1866,	Do. ..	Do. ...	20th Do.
12356	Veera Buthra Conndun	50	22nd January 1865..	Do	Do. ..	20th Do.
10257	Seva Singh ...	70	11th December 1865,	Do. ..	Do.	21st Do
7206	Cadada ..	60	18th April 1863 ..	Do. ..	Do ...	21st Do
12460	Chene Colomoneygado	30	9th April 1866 .	Do ..	Do. ...	22nd Do.
8728	Sookman .	40	22nd January 1864 ..	Do ..	Do. ...	22nd Do.
12388	Gaarruppen ...	45	12th September 1866	Do. ..	Do. ...	27th Do.
11502	Khan Singh ...	30	11th February 1866 .	Do.	Do. ..	28th Do.

Nominal Roll of Convicts who died in August 1866.—(Concluded.)

General No.	Names.	Age.	Date of arrival in the Settlement.	Disease where contracted.	Place of Death.	Date of Death.
12490	Gooroo ...	40	12th December 1866,	Navy B. P. ...	Chatham ...	1st August 1866.
11102	Bintha ..	40	11th December 1865,	Do. ...	Do. ...	4th Do.
10555	Roopchund Thalee ..	38	11th January 1866 ..	Do. ...	Do. ...	7th Do.
10421	Baghaa ...	36	29th October 1865 ..	Do. ...	Do. ...	9th Do.
12276	Bissasur ..	60	2nd April 1866 ...	Haddo ...	Do. ...	10th Do.
10622	Thotha Jyeer ...	36	8th December 1865...	Navy B. P. ...	Do. ...	11th Do.
10497	Nuthoolah ...	48	14th November 1865,	Do. ...	Do. ...	12th Do.
11441	Ameer ...	32	9th January 1866 ...	Haddo ..	Do. ...	13th Do.
10690	Seethal Ghose ...	50	18th December 1865,	Navy B. P. ...	Do. ...	15th Do.
6945	Nunnoo .	55	29th March 1863 ...	Haddo ...	Do. ..	21st Do.
11615	Soobunnah ...	35	11th January 1866 ...	Navy B. P. ...	Do. ...	22nd Do.
10902	Shabux Singh ...	73	8th December 1863,	Haddo ...	Do. ...	25th Do.
10953	Baulgobin ...	48	8th December 1863,	Navy B. P. ...	Do. ...	27th Do.
12185	Mustha Ram ...	45	6th April 1866 ...	Haddo ...	Do. ..	29th Do.
4393	Hoossainah ...	40	26th January 1861 ..	Do. ...	Do. ...	31st Do.

Nominal Roll of Convicts who died in September 1866.

General No.	Names.	Age.	Date of arrival in the Settlement.	Disease where contracted.	Place of Death.	Date of Death.
9320	Kudderuppah ...	42	16th April 1865 ...	Hope Town ...	Ross Island,	1st Sept. 1867.
12472	Jummaul Saib ...	28	12th April 1866 ...	Navy B. P. ...	Do. ...	1st " "
7920	Rungiah ...	30	31st August 1863 ..	Ross Island ...	Do. ...	2nd " "
12617	Hookkariah ...	28	21st April 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	4th " "
10371	Theencondee ...	30	29th October 1865 ...	Mount Harriet ..	Do. ...	3rd " "
12616	Davaleah ...	28	21st April 1866 ...	Ross Island ..	Do. ...	3rd " "
9826	Koondegadoo ...	28	27th September 1865,	Hope Town ...	Do. ...	3rd " "
10792	Hurreebauree ...	28	8th December 1865,	Aberdeen ..	Do. ...	4th " "
11312	Rungadoo ...	28	9th January 1866 ...	Phœnix Bay ...	Do. ...	5th " "
8314	Goolam ...	40	26th April 1864 ..	Aberdeen ...	Do. ...	6th " "
7120	Gowrie ...	35	14th April 1863 ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	8th " "
12217	Chunnerom ...	30	9th April 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	9th " "
12805	Vollidod ...	30	5th May 1866 ...	Ross Island ...	Do. ...	9th " "
11729	Somasoonder ...	28	7th February 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. ..	13th " "
8223	Succaram ...	30	15th February 1864,	Mount Harriet...	Do. ...	14th " "
10927	Ramnarrain ...	28	8th February 1866 ...	Aberdeen ...	Do. ..	16th " "
11950	Rundeer Singh ...	30	12th February 1866...	Ross Island ...	Do. ...	17th " "
11148	Rathay Singh ...	50	11th December 1865,	Port Mount ...	Do. ...	18th " "
9038	Zynub ...	25	25th November 1864,	Ross Island ...	Do. ...	18th " "
11382	Butthoo ...	30	8th January 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. ..	19th " "
11681	Gunnoo ...	30	16th January 1866 .	Do. ...	Do. ...	19th " "
12199	Mahnund ...	40	6th April 1866 ..	Haddo ...	Do. ...	20th " "
9735	Thapoo ...	30	27th September 1865,	Ross Island ...	Do. ..	21st " "
11305	Mathah ...	30	9th January 1866 ..	Do. ...	Do. ...	21st " "
11732	Davanjee ...	45	7th February 1866 ...	Haddo ..	Do. ...	25th " "
11814	Gungoo ..	30	8th February 1866 ..	Hope Town ...	Do. ..	26th " "
10996	Bagoo ...	40	8th December 1865...	Do ...	Do. ...	28th " "
12484	Kalun ..	30	12th April 1866 ..	Navy B. P. ...	Chatham ...	5th " "
12476	Coonjah Bagthee ...	30	12th April 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. ..	10th " "
5157	Bathoola Sing ...	77	29th June 1861 ...	Haddo ...	Do. ...	11th " "
6502	Rathen ...	50	14th March 1863 ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	25th " "
6696	Gooroodoss ...	60	20th March 1863 ...	Chatham ...	Do. ...	25th " "
9465	Ajoodia ..	60	31st May 1865 ...	Viper Island ..	Viper Island,	3rd " "
12364	Karoopen Moothen...	30	9th April 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	5th " "
12877	Alley Hoossain ...	25	5th May 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	5th " "
11013	Jummieth ...	35	11th December 1865,	Do. ...	Do. ...	6th " "
10625	Shenkur Ajam ...	65	14 November 1865 ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	6th " "
6289	Soobagea ...	45	16th December 1862.	Do. ...	Do. ...	7th " "
10786	Neetheeojah ...	20	8th December 1865 ..	Do. ...	Do. ...	14th " "
12097	Bulloo Rai ...	55	12th February 1866 ..	Do. ...	Do. ...	15th " "
7255	Bheem .	35	15th April 1863 ..	Do. ...	Do. ...	17th " "
11487	Bawz Singh ...	30	9th January 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	18th " "
12381	Cotoosha ...	25	9th April 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	18th " "

Nominal Roll of Convicts who died in September 1866.—(Concluded).

General Number.	Names	Age.	Date of arrival in the Settlement.	Disease where contracted.	Place of Death	Date of Death
11156	Inderjeeth ...	50	11th December 1865.	Viper Island ...	Viper Island	21st Sept 1866
11369	Tulloo ...	40	9th January 1866 .	Do. ...	Do. ...	24th " "
11516	Cossim Ally ...	40	11th January 1866 ...	Do. ..	Do. ..	26th " "
12049	Bahdoor ..	50	12th February 1866 ..	Do. ...	Do. ..	26th " "
11486	Gungah ...	30	9th January 1866 ..	Do. ...	Do ...	27th " "
10017	Gooravadoo ...	35	29th October 1865 ..	Port Mouat ...	Port Mouat.	4th " "
8089	Keriatappah ...	45	8th December 1863 ..	Do. ...	Do. ...	5th " "
9930	Cumbannah ...	24	29th October 1865 ..	Do. ...	Do. ...	6th " "
9743	Carpen .	35	26th July 1865 .	Do. ...	Do. .	6th " "
10766	Rooprai ..	38	14th December 1865.	Do. ...	Do.	7th " "
10051	Thooin Gooravadoo ..	24	29th October ...	Do. ...	Do. ..	9th " "
10201	Sook Singh ...	50	29th October ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	14th " "
12450	Mungul Venkelraloo.	35	12th April 1866 ...	Do. ..	Do. ...	15th " "
12402	Poken ...	42	12th April 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. ..	16th " "
11495	Jahour Singh ...	38	9th January 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	20th " "
12366	Ramga ...	38	9th April 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	20th " "
12284	Woodut ...	32	9th April 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	21st " "
12393	Arnachellum ...	38	9th April 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	22nd " "
11902	Meerah Shaik ...	55	8th February 1866 ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	28th " "

No. 347, dated 2nd April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Senior Medical Officer, and President, Sanitary Committee.

The undersigned has the honor to suggest that, as there is a scarcity of meat for prisoners, it might be advisable to allow Ngapee, or fish paste, to be supplied to the Burmese prisoners, perhaps, when considering the subject of prisoners' diet, your Committee will consider this matter. There must be somewhere about 800 or 1,000 castless prisoners, or men of very low caste.

No. 352, dated 23rd April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Senior Medical Officer, and President, Sanitary Committee.

The undersigned has the honor to forward for your information, letter No. 323, dated 30th March 1867, from Lieut.-Colonel Ford, to the Chief Commissioner, on the subject of an inadequate supply of fresh meat, and suggesting a plan for the supply of fish, and other particulars.

2. Forwards also one suit of prison clothing as used in the jail at Rangoon as a sample.
3. You are requested to return the letter and clothing when done with.

No. 545, dated 9th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will inform me of the quantity of cocoanut oil issued for every purpose during 1866 (*i. e.*, from 1st January to 31st December.)

The same information is requested regarding mustard oil ; also the cost to Government (including every charge), and the amount received and paid into the Treasury (as shown by the endorsement in the indents) from every source.

No. 113, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—Lieut. A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to enclose, as requested in your letter No. 545, dated 9th May, a return of cocoanut and mustard oil issued, giving costs, &c.

2. Not wishing to longer delay the submission of this return, the preparation of which takes a long time, I have only completed it for seven months. If you require it, I shall have a separate one drawn up for the remaining five months.

Return of Mustard Oil issued from 1st March to 30th September 1866.

Months		Quantity.			Value Received			Remarks
March 1866	478	144	0	0	.....	.	.	Principal, Convict Hospital, Ross Island.
"	491	72	0	0	.....	.	.	Convict Hospital, Chatham.
" ..	514	17	8	0	2	11	9	Free Bunneah, Nagbooshanma.
"	516	60	0	0	....	...	...	Officiating Overseer, Aberdeen Barrack.
" .	550	76	0	0	.....	...	...	Goverdun Mitter, Mis Contgt.
" ...	554	54	0	0	.....	.	...	Convict Hospital, Viper Island.
" ...	555	495	0	0	.....	...	..	Heera Singh.
" ...	565	50	0	0	.....	.		Officiating Overseer, Aberdeen, Mis. Contgt.
" ...	586	50	0	0	6	4	0	Deena Singh, 9th Division
" ...	597	802	0	0	.....	.	...	Heera Singh.
" ..	661	2,125	0	0	.....		..	Ditto.
" ...	665	25	0	0	3	2	0	Deena Singh, 9th Division
" ...	690	24	0	0	3	0	0	Vakalaswamy Maistry.
" ..	691	214	0	0	26	12	0	Free Bunneah.
Total, lbs. ...		4,208	8	0				
Voucher No.	15	10	8	0	.....	...	.	Perishable Indent for Sappers' Hospital.
" ...	9	15	0	0	.....	..		Cattle Shed at Aberdeen
" ...	11	151	2	0	.....		.	For Barrack Department, 2-24th Regiment
" ..	12	81	6	0	.....	...	...	Sappers and Miners' Barracks.
"	13	40	2	0	.....	.	...	Commissariat Staff Sergeants and Guards.
" .	14	8	4	0	.....	.		Detachment, 25th Regiment N. I., Barrack.
" ...	29	33	4	0	.....	.	...	Cattle Shed at Mount Harriet and cleaning iron-doors in the Godown
" ...	30	34	14	0	.....	...	...	Perishable Indent for 2-44th Regiment, Hospital
" ...	33	329	12	0	.....	...	...	Wastage Report for Sundry Articles.
Total, lbs ..		704	4	0				
April 1866 . ..	694	27	0	0	.....	..	...	Convict Hospital, Ross Island.
" ...	716	72	0	0	.....	.		Convict Hospital, Chatham
" ...	734	70	0	0	.....	...	.	Officiating Overseer at Aberdeen, Mis. Contgt.
" ...	738	180	0	0	.....		..	Principal Convict Hospital, Ross Island
" .	762	2,178	0	0	.....	...	.	Heera Singh.
" ...	765	54	0	0	.....	...	...	Convict Hospital, Viper Island.
" ...	817	30	0	0	.....		...	Mr Gubboy for Conservancy Department.
" ...	822	50	0	0	.....		...	Officiating Overseer at Aberdeen, Mis. Contgt.
"	845	200	0	0	25	0	0	Free Bunneah.
" ...	859	2,206	0	0	.....	...	...	Heera Singh.
" ...	893	25	0	0	3	2	0	Venkataswamy, Baker.
Total, lbs ..		5,092	0	0				
Voucher No ...	2	33	12	0	.....	..		1 lamp for Barrack Guard, and 2 lamps for 91 men, 25th Regiment.
" ...	3	78	12	0	.....	...	..	Sappers' and Miners' Barracks
" ...	4	148	2	0	.....	.	..	Detachment, 2-24th Regiment ditto.
" ...	9	11	10	0	.....		..	Perishable Indent for Sappers' Hospital.
" ...	10	11	4	0	.....	...	.	Ditto ditto, 25th Regiment ditto.
" ...	14	25	0	0	.....		...	Committee Report.
" ...	18	33	12	0	.....	...		Perishable Indent for 2-24th Regiment Hospital.
" ..	24	45	0	0	.....	...	.	Commissariat Staff Sergeants.
" ...	31	32	8	0	.....	..		For cleaning 6 iron-doors and Cattle Shed at Aberdeen.
" ...	32	372	0	0	.....	..	.	Wastage Report.
Total, lbs. ..		791	12	0				
May 1866 ...	32	1,000	0	0	.....	...	...	J N Homfray, Esq., Port Mount
" ...	53	2,331	0	0	.....	.	..	Heera Singh.
" ...	59	54	0	0	.....	...	.	Convict Hospital at Viper.
" ...	20	72	0	0	.....	..	...	Ditto ditto at Chatham.
" ...	31	180	0	0	.....	...	..	Ditto ditto at Ross Island.
" ...	120	25	0	0	.....	.		A Gubboy, Mis Contgt.
" ...	122	450	0	0	56	4	0	Free Bunneah.
" ..	143	25	0	0	3	2	0	Venkataswamy, Baker.
" ...	146	1,981	0	0	.....	..	...	Heera Singh.
" ...	198	150	0	0	.....		.	J. N. Homfray, Esq, 9th Division.
Total, lbs ...		6,268	0	0				
Voucher No. ...	1	133	11	0	.....	..		For Barrack 2-24th Regiment
" ...	2	81	6	0	.....	...	.	Sappers' Barracks.
" ..	3	34	2	0	.....		...	Detachment, 25th Regiment Barracks.
" ...	4	45	12	0	.....	..	..	Staff Sergeants and Guards.
Carried over ...		.....	..	..	.....	...	.	

Return of Mustard Oil issued from 1st March to 30th September 1866—(Continued).

Months.	Quantity.			Value Received.			Remarks.
Brought forward ...	.....	...	..	.....	...	...	
Voucher No. ... 5	11	4	0	.....	...	...	Perishable Indent for Sappers' Hospital.
" ... 6	11	10	0	.....	...	...	Ditto ditto for 25th Regiment ditto
" ... 22	27	4	0	.....	...	...	Cattle shed at Perseverance Point and cleaning 6 iron doors.
" ... 25	34	14	0	.....	...	...	Perishable Indent for 2-24th Regiment Hospital.
" ... 27	88	0	0	.....	...	...	Wastage Report.
Total, lbs. ...	489	11	0				
June 1866 ... 19	50	0	0	.....	...	...	A. Gubboy for Settlement Lamp.
" ... 23	135	0	0	.....	...	...	Convict Hospital, Ross Island.
" ... 41	90	0	0	.....	...	...	Ditto ditto, Chatham ditto.
" ... 49	10	0	0	.....	...	...	Kotewal Light.
" ... 82	63	0	0	.....	...	...	Convict Hospital, Viper Island.
" ... 93	3,147	0	0	.....	...	...	Heera Singh.
" ... 108	100	0	0	.....	...	...	Ditto.
" ... 132	50	8	0	6	5	0	Baker Venkataswamy.
" ... 160	25	0	0	.....	...	...	Conservancy Department.
" ... 164	90	0	0	.....	...	...	Convict Hospital, Ross Island.
" ... 189	2,451	0	0	.....	...	...	Heera Singh.
" ... 192	200	0	0	25	0	0	Free Bunneah.
" ... 199	100	0	0	.....	...	.	J. N. Homfray, Esq., Settlement use.
" ... 200	14	0	0	1	12	0	D. P. W.
Total, lbs. ...	6,525	8	0				
Voucher No. ... 1	112	8	0	.....	...	...	Sappers' and Miners' Barracks.
" ... 3	11	10	0	.....	...	...	Perishable Indent, Ditto Hospital.
" ... 4	140	10	0	.....	...	...	2-24th Regt. Barracks.
" ... 7	11	4	0	.....	...	...	Perishable Indent, Ditto Hospital.
" ... 8	33	12	0	.....	...	...	25th Regt. Barracks.
" ... 20	33	12	0	.....	...	...	Perishable Indent, 2-24th Regt. Hospital.
" ... 29	45	0	0	.....	...	...	Staff Sergeants and Commissariat Guards.
" ... 36	30	0	0	.....	.	...	Cattle Shed, Perseverance Point and Aberdeen.
" ... 37	570	0	0	.....	...	...	Wastage Report.
Total, lbs. ...	988	8	0				
July 1866 ... 236	225	0	0	.....	...	...	Convict Hospital, Ross Island.
" ... 242	135	0	0	.....	...	...	Ditto ditto, Chatham ditto.
" ... 276	25	0	0	.....	...	...	Conservancy Department.
" ... 281	2,926	0	0	.....	...	...	Heera Singh.
" ... 300	63	0	0	.....	...	...	Convict Hospital, Viper Island.
" ... 373	25	0	0	.....	...	...	Gubboy, Mis. Contgt.
" ... 395	2,260	0	0	.....	...	...	Heera Singh.
" ... 397	200	0	0	.....	...	...	Ditto.
" ... 410	120	0	0	15	0	0	Baker Venkataswamy.
Total, lbs. ...	5,979	0	0				
Voucher No. ... 2	133	11	0	.....	.	...	2-24th Regt. Barrack.
" ... 3	34	14	0	.....	...	...	25th ditto ditto.
" ... 4	116	4	0	.....	...	...	Sappers and Miners ditto.
" ... 5	11	4	0	.....	...	...	Ditto ditto Hospital.
" ... 8	11	10	0	.....	...	...	25th Regiment ditto.
" ... 19	31	8	0	.....	..	...	Staff Sergeants and Commissariat Guards.
" ... 25	23	4	0	.....	...	...	For Cattle at Perseverance Point and Aberdeen.
" ... 26	34	14	0	.....	...	..	2-24th Regiment Hospital.
" ... 37	557	4	0	.....	...	...	Wastage Report.
Total, lbs. ...	954	9	0				
August ... 456	216	0	0	.....	...	...	Convict Hospital, Ross Island.
" ... 470	50	0	0	.....	...	...	A. Gubboy, Mis. Contgt.
" ... 480	135	0	0	.....	...	...	Convict Hospital, Chatham Island.
" ... 489	63	0	0	.....	...	..	Ditto ditto, Viper ditto.
" ... 503	11	10	0	.....	...	...	25th Regiment Hospital.
" ... 526	2,827	0	0	.....	...	...	Heera Singh.
" ... 538	25	0	0	.....	.		A. Gubboy, Mis. Contgt.
" ... 581	80	0	0	10	0	0	Baker Venkataswamy.
" ... 582	200	0	0	25	0	0	Free Bunneah.
" ... 603	25	0	0	3	2	0	D. P. W.
" ... 615	100	0	0	.....	...	..	J. N. Homfray, Esq., Settlement use.
Carried over ...	.....	...	..	.....	-	...	

Return of Mustard Oil issued from 1*st March to* 30*th September* 1866—(Concluded.)

Months.		Quantity.			Value Received.			Remarks.
Brought forward ...		.....			.....			
August ...	614	1,000	0	0	.....			Port Mouat sale.
" ...	616	4,258	0	0	.....			Heera Singh.
Total, lbs. ...		8,990	0	0				
Voucher No. ...	2	116	4	0	.....			For the use of Sappers' Barracks.
" ...	3	34	14	0	.....			25th Regiment Barracks.
" ...	4	126	12	0	.....			2-24th ditto ditto.
" ...	5	11	10	0	.....			Sappers' and Miners' Hospital.
" ...	14	23	4	0	.....			Staff Sergeants and Commissariat Guards.
" ...	25	34	14	0	.....			Cattle Shed, Aberdeen and Perseverance Point.
" ...	27	34	14	0	.....			2-24th Regiment Hospital.
" ...	28	703	0	0	.....			Wastage Report.
Total, lbs. ...		1,085	8	0				
Sept. 1866 ...	4	500	0	0	62	8	0	A. Gubboy, Conservancy Department.
" ...	7	62	8	0	.....			Convict Hospital, Ross Island.
" ...	29	225	0	0	.....			Ditto ditto, Chatham ditto.
" ...	31	135	0	0	.....			Mr. T. Bryant, Overseer, 4th and 6th Divisions.
" ...	45	187	8	0	.....			Overseer in charge, 7th Division.
" ...	50	52	8	0	.....			Mr. T. Smith, Constable.
" ...	57	14	0	0	.....			Overseer in charge, 2nd Division.
" ...	58	45	0	0	.....			For the use of 10th Division.
" ...	62	73	0	0	.....			Overseer of Aberdeen for Barrack lamp.
" ...	65	106	0	0	.....			Overseer, Mr. Hawkins.
" ...	66	112	8	0	.....			Ditto, Mr. Jackson, 11th Division.
" ...	67	105	0	0	.....			Ditto ditto, 8th ditto.
" ...	69	52	8	0	.....			Ditto ditto, 1st ditto.
" ...	70	75	0	0	.....			Heera Singh.
" ...	73	2,511	0	0	.....			R. J. Danay, Officiating Overseer.
" ...	76	67	4	0	.....			Convict Hospital, Viper Island.
" ...	78	63	0	0	.....			E. A. D'Cruze, Mis. Contgt.
" ...	85	22	8	0	.....			Free Bunneah.
" ...	103	500	0	0	62	8	0	Baker, Venkataswamy.
" ...	112	157	8	0	19	11	0	Mr. Wilson, Mis. Contgt.
" ...	117	25	0	0	.....			Convict Hospital, Ross Island.
" ...	126	90	0	0	.....			Gubboy, Mis. Contgt.
" ...	127	25	0	0	.....			Convict Hospital, Ross Island.
" ...	152	2,354	0	0	.....			D. P. W.
" ...	172	64	0	0	8	0	0	Heera Singh.
" ...	170	150	0	0	.....			Mr. C. Darwood, Marine Contgt.
Total, lbs. ...		7,774	12	0				
Voucher No. ...	2	112	8	0	.....			For the use of Sappers' Barracks.
" ...	3	33	12	0	.....			Ditto 25th Regiment ditto.
" ...	4	127	8	0	.....			Her Majesty's 2-24th ditto ditto.
" ...	8	11	4	0	.....			Perishable Indent for Sappers' Hospital.
" ...	9	11	4	0	.....			Ditto ditto 25th Regiment ditto.
" ...	26	22	8	0	.....			Staff Sergeants and Commissariat Guards.
" ...	37	33	12	0	.....			Perishable Indent for 2-24th Regiment Hospital.
" ...	35	33	12	0	.....			Cattle shed at Aberdeen and Perseverance Point.
" ...	38	695	4	0	.....			Wastage Report.
Total, lbs. ...		1,081	8	0				
Grand Total, lbs. ...		50,934	2	0	368	3	9	

Total cost to Government, including Freight and Charges ... ... Rs. 6,691 7 3

(Signed) A. LAUGHTON, Lieut.,
Sub-Assistant Commissary General.

Commissariat Office,
Port Blair, 11*th May* 1867.

Return of Cocoanut Oil issued from 1st March to 30th September 1866.

Months.		Quantity.			Value Received.			Remarks.
March 1866	... 478	27	0	0	...	...	...	Principal Hospital, Ross Island.
"	... 490	4	8	0	...	...	...	The Superintendent, Mis. Contgt.
"	.. 491	18	0	0	..	...	.	Convict Hospital, Chatham Island.
"	. 514	25	0	0	4	4	0	Free Bunneah.
"	... 521	8	0	0	...	...	.	Lall Sokul Kotewal.
"	.. 541	300	0	0	...	...	...	J. N. Homfray, Esq., Mist. Contgt.
"	... 554	9	0	0	...	.	...	Convict Hospital, Viper Island.
"	... 555	50	0	0	...	.	...	Heera Sing, Bunneah.
"	... 558	25	0	0	...	...	..	Mr. McGrevey, Marine Barrack.
"	... 570	25	0	0	...	...	.	Do. do., Mis. Contgt.
"	... 573	50	0	0	...	...	...	A. Gubboy, Conservancy Department.
"	. 581	13	8	0	...	.	..	J. Lamprord, Superintendent's Bungalow.
"	. 605	50	0	0	...	...	...	Mr. Driscold, "Erin-go-bragh."
"	... 610	27	0	0	...	..	...	Schooner "Alexandra."
"	613	50	0	0	8	9	6	D. P. W.
"	... 644	25	0	0	...	..	...	Mr. McGrevey, Mis. Contgt.
"	. 664	6	0	0	...	...	...	The Superintendent, Mis. Contgt.
"	673	25	0	0	..	...	...	For cleaning Settlement Arms.
"	... 677	300	0	0	...	...	...	J. N. Homfray, Esq., Settlement use.
"	... 689	100	0	0	17	3	0	P. W. D.
"	... 691	512	0	0	88	0	0	Free Bunneah.
Total, lbs.	...	1,660	0	0				
Voucher No.	.. 15	2	0	0	...	...	...	Perishable Indent for Sappers' Hospital.
"	.. 18	135	0	0	..	...	...	Her Majesty's Steamer "Diana."
"	... 29	5	8	0	...	..	...	For cleaning scales and tanning hides.
"	... 30	2	0	0	...	...	...	Certificate for Articles issued 2-24th Regiment Hospital.
"	... 33	128	4	0	...	...	...	Wastage Report.
Total, lbs.	...	272	12	0				
April 1866	... 705	50	0	0	...	...	...	Head Sweeper, Conservancy Department.
"	... 703	50	0	0	...	...	...	Mr. McGrevey for flag staff lamps.
"	... 716	18	0	0	...	..	...	Convict Hospital, Chatham Island.
"	... 731	10	0	0	...	...	...	Loll Sokull, Kotewal.
"	... 737	30	0	0	...	...	...	The Superintendent, Mis. Contgt.
"	... 738	27	0	0	...	.	...	Convict Hospital, Ross Island.
"	... 755	72	0	0	..	...	...	Schooner "Lady Lawrence."
"	... 762	100	0	0	...	...	...	Heera Sing.
"	... 765	13	8	0	...	...	...	Convict Hospital, Viper-Island.
"	... 800	6	0	0	...	...	...	The Superintendent Mis. Contgt.
"	... 809	4	8	0	..	.	.	M. Driscoll, "Erin go-bragh."
"	... 821	50	0	0	...	...	..	Mr. McGrevey for Marine Barracks.
"	... 828	25	0	0	...	.	...	J. Lamprord, Mis. Congt.
"	... 845	200	0	0	34	6	0	Free Bunneah.
"	... 851	4	8	0	...	..	.	J. Lamprord, Mis. Contgt.
"	... 867	25	0	0	...	...	..	Mr. Wilson for Signal Lamp.
"	... 868	54	0	0	...	.	.	Schooner "Alexandra."
"	... 884	75	0	0	12	14	3	D. P. W.
"	... 887	300	0	0	...	...	..	J. N. Homfray, Esq., Settlement use.
Total, lbs.	...	1,120	8	0				
Voucher No.	... 5	135	0	0	...	...	...	H. M.'s Steamer "Diana."
"	... 9	3	0	0	...	...		Perishable Indent Sappers' Hospital.
"	... 10	1	0	0	...	...	...	Ditto ditto, 25th Regiment ditto.
"	... 13	135	0	0	...	...	...	Steamer "Diana."
"	... 18	2	0	0	...	...	...	Perishable Indent 2-24th Regiment Hospital.
"	.. 31	7	0	0	...	..	...	For cleaning scales and tanning hides.
"	... 32	154	8	0	...	...	...	Wastage Report.
Total, lbs.	...	437	0	0				
May 1866	... 12	800	0	0	...	...	...	Lamp Lighter, Mis. Contgt.
"	... 15	10	0	0	...	...	...	Kotewal.
"	... 18	50	0	0	...	...	...	A. Gubboy, Conservancy Department.
"	... 20	18	0	0	...	...	...	Chatham Convict Hospital.
"	... 31	27	0	0	...	...	..	Ross ditto ditto.
"	... 33	1,000	0	0	..	...	...	J. N. Homfray, Esq., Port Mouat.
"	... 42	50	0	0	...	...	...	Superintendent's Office.
"	... 50	18	0	0	...	...	...	J. Lamprord, Mis. Contgt.
"	... 53	100	0	0	..	...	...	Heera Singh.

*** Continuation of this Statement not furnished to the Press.—P. D.

No. 214, dated 6th March, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Offg. Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication No. 746, of 16th January last, forwarding Government letters as per margin (returned herewith as requested) for my information, and by direction of the Chief Commissioner requesting me to furnish a full report on my "not attending to the remonstrances of Dr. Morton, with regard to unacclimatised prisoners being sent to work in the jungles." In the Report which I now proceed to append, I trust most clearly to show that no such inattention can be imputed to me.

No. 1746, of 28th December 1866, from the Secretary to Government, Home Department, to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

No. 1523, of 26th September 1866, from Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, to Secretary to Government of India, Home Department.

No. 430, of 9th October 1866, from the Officiating Principal Inspector General, Medical Department, to Secretary to Government of India, Home Department.

No. 1743, of 28th December 1866, from Secretary to Government of India, Home Department, to Secretary to Government, Madras.

2. Referring to the first three paras. of Mr. Secretary Bayley's letter No. 1746 above marginally quoted, I respectfully note that His Excellency the Governor General in Council observes that, in Statement A appended to my Report on the affairs of this Settlement for August and September last, that not fewer than 62 out of 79 casualties in the former, and 38 out of 62 casualties in the latter, were ascribed to the circumstance of unacclimatised prisoners being sent to work in the jungles. But I would here respectfully explain, that although these men were in the widest sense of the word "recent arrivals," yet taking as a true basis for reply the fact of Dr. Morton's recommendation that convicts on arrival should reside for six months (the actual understanding between Dr. Morton and myself was from three to six months, so far as circumstances would admit) at Ross Island* to in some measure acclimatise them before being sent to work in the jungles, it would appear from the records of this office that, of the above named casualties, the actual number of deaths which took place amongst convicts of six months standing, and less than three at Port Blair was for August 21, and of six months standing and not less than four for September 14, and of less than three months at Port Blair, *nil.*

* My inability to always keep up the arrangement was explained in this Office letter No. 40 of the 29th June 1866, to the address of the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, in which I pointed out that convicts were then arriving in large batches rapidly; they were then distributed to other stations that were considered healthy, and where accommodation could be most readily obtained.

From the subjoined further detail of particulars as regards causes of death and periods of time that the totals of 62 and 45 respectively are given as the deaths resulting from working in the jungles before acclimatisation, it will be seen that Dr. Morton must apparently have prepared his remarks for the month of August from incorrect data.

Of the 38 sufferers who are stated to have died at out-stations in *September* from disease there contracted, I would very respectfully beg to remark, that that Officer has not ascribed their deaths to employment in clearing jungles as is remarked upon in para. 2 of Mr. Bayley's letter; the only wet earth-work in which convicts were employed having been, during September, in cutting out sites for Police Barracks at "Viper Island," and Hospital at "Haddo," and kutcha road-making at "Haddo" and "Navy Point"; and the only jungle clearing was at the latter place and "Aberdeen" (in both cases on elevated ground), and the road between "Port Blair" and "Port Mouat," where there was no swamp.

August 1866.	No.	Remarks.
Recaptured escaped Prisoner ...	1	The ages and average age of these prisoners are as follows :—
Prisoners over 50 years of age, one of whom was a Leper ...	11	
Prisoners 10 months at Port Blair ...	7	
Prisoners 9 months at Port Blair ...	7	
" 8 do. ...	4	
" 7 do. ...	11	
" 6 and not less than 3 months ...	21	
Total ...	62	

	No.	Average.
Under 20 Years,	2	18·5
20 to 30 "	15	24·26
30 to 40 "	24	32·20
40 to 50 "	10	42·5
50 to 60 "	6	50·16
60 to 70 "	3	61·6
70 to 76 "	2	73

Of the above, 15 were in Hospital for periods ranging between 3 and 7 months.

Of the above also, 11 arrived by the "Arratoon Apear," a large proportion of which batch were found to be old and debilitated creatures, quite unfit for work, and several of the remainder emaciated, debilitated subjects, suffering from disease of long standing. 16 arrived by "Golden Fleece," out of which batch 88* were reported on arrival as being worn out, feeble, sick, and weakly. 6 arrived by "Combermere," *nearly the whole* of which batch were found on arrival looking unhealthy, making a total of 33 or more than one-half of the above mentioned 62.

* Sic in copy.—P. D.

SEPTEMBER 1866.	No.	REMARKS.			
				No.	*Average.*
Recaptured Escaped prisoners ...	5	Under 20 Years		2	16
Prisoners over 50 years of age ...	5	20 to 30	„	22	25·29
„ 11 months at Port Blair ...	2	30 to 40	„	14	33· 5
„ 10 do. ...	3	40 to 50	„	2	42· 5
„ 9 do. ...	7	50 to 60	„	1	55
„ 8 do. ...	5	60 to 70	„	3	62
„ 7 do. ...	4	70	...	1	70
„ 6 and not less than 4 months ...	14	Of the above, 17 were in Hospital for periods ranging between 3 and 5 months. Of the above also— 4 arrived by the "Arratoon Apcar" 15 „ „ "Golden Fleece" 3 „ „ "Combermere" making a total of 22, or nearly one-half of the above named 45.			
Total ...	45				

With regard to the remonstrances stated to have been made to me by Dr. Morton, I beg here distinctly to state that I never received any from that officer, verbal or written. So far as his having occasion to adopt any such course, I would desire to record that so long as he lived here, but one accord and principle actuated us in the conjoint discharge of our duties to the Government, in respect of care of the convict prisoners. In daily and the most friendly association with him, I may say, that not a step was taken in connection therewith without the most perfect unanimity of opinion, and consequent mutual action. If reference is made to the concluding portion of para 4 of clause 2 of Dr. Morton's letter, the words extracted in the margin will be found, from which it will be perceived that Dr. Morton himself says that I was with reluctance obliged to abandon the system, that is, of employing none but acclimatised prisoners at jungle work. If Dr. Morton had said that it was with reluctance we *both* felt the necessity of doing this, (as was the case,) it would have been clear that no "remonstrances" were made by him on the subject.

It is but right I should here remark that in consequence of the greatly increased numerical strength of the prisoners, and the above clearances requiring to be made as speedily as possible, the Superintendent felt himself obliged to abandon the system (which he reluctantly did) which I had so strongly urged on him to continue if possible; *viz*, that of employing none but the acclimatised convicts at jungle work.

When I mention that the barrack accommodation on "Ross Island" provides at the outside for 1,110 men only, and that within two months on one occasion* 897 convicts and 808 on another within the same period were received at Port Blair, it will appear what a difficulty must attend the carrying out of arrangements whereby all of them should get the benefit of the acclimatisation desired, for neither the Executive Engineer's skilled convict-workmen, the Commissariat Officers trained Convict Establishment, the Hospitals, nor Conservancy Establishments could be moved to other stations, so that actually during the time of rapid arrivals but a very small percentage of *acclimatised* convicts remained on Ross Island for transfer to out-stations on the arrival of each succeeding new batch.

* During the convict arrival season 3,354 prisoners arrived. These figures show the greatest number of arrivals within 2 consecutive months.

3 By the extract marginally quoted from Dr. Morton's letter to my address No. 389, of 17th July 1865, it will be observed that he considered that the bunding of the swamps at "Aberdeen" and "Phœnix Bay" would in time completely remove the sources of disease from which the convicts at that station had been suffering. With this most desirable and important end in view, and it being very advisable, if possible, to complete the bund at "Phœnix Bay" *before* the setting in of the "south-west monsoon,"* after which work could not only be not continued, but would, if incomplete, be carried away and lost; every effort was therefore made during the dry season and with every care (*vide* Dr. Morton's own Report para. 3) in order to effect this object, which, not only in the opinion of Dr. Morton, but likewise that of other Medical Officers of experience, the Executive Engineer as well as myself was so calculated to be attended with such beneficial results. In connection with the above, and in proof that much good did result, I may here quote from Dr. Morton's letter to my address No. 506, of 31st August 1866: "I have the honor to state "that, since the bunding of the two swamps at 'Aberdeen,' the cases of fever contracted at that "station by the convicts have not only been much less numerous, but *altogether of a much* "*milder character* than those which prevailed there before these swamps were cleared and "bunded as they are at the present time so as to admit of their being flooded with fresh water."

The worst cases of fever and bowel complaints were admitted into Hospital from the station of Aberdeen, and were evidently occasioned in some degree by the close proximity to the primæval jungle, but more especially by the pestiferous exhalations emanating from the two mangrove swamps in the vicinity The bunding however of both these swamps having been commenced, and are now being completed, together with the clearances of jungle being made near that station, will doubtless (as it has already done to some extent) in due course completely remove these sources of disease.

* I personally submitted my views on the subject to the Chief Commissioner, and made reference in my various reports and letters, from time to time, of the advisability of the bunding, and my wish to put the work in hand, to which no objection was made.

But whilst every proper effort was being made to have this bund completed, it was also my bounden duty to afford the Executive Engineer all the labour that I could make available to the Department of Public Works, in the rapid construction and completion of barracks, &c., and other general accommodation of a convict population which I had been instructed to expect a steady increase to and to provide for ; while to supply the other numerous labor requirements necessary to the succour of the sick, the preservation of a properly sanitary system, and the daily supply of all requirements of a convict community rapidly increasing in numbers, which it is sought as much as possible to render self-supporting, required no small amount of anxious attention. It was also necessary to push on with all possible despatch the clearance around the new Stations of "Navy Point," "Command Point," "Perseverance Point," and "South Point," as it was highly undesirable to overcrowd any of the first occupied stations. Indeed, so far as "Ross Island" was concerned, it will be observed from the extract marginally quoted from a letter to my address from the Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner in the Public Works Department No. 232-46, C / E, dated 21st June 1866, that the Chief Commissioner strongly objected to any further over-crowding ; and the same objection applied, if anything, more forcibly to all the other stations of any standing, as from their closer proximity to the jungles, and consequent greater tendency to unhealthiness, any overcrowding would, in all probability, have been attended with serious results ; for it must be borne in mind, though there has been no increase made in the number of convicts sent to the Settlement beyond what the barrack accommodation of the Settlement was capable of receiving, that it is not sufficient to clear sites on a hill-top, and thereon erect the barracks, but that for health's sake, all jungle for *some considerable distance around those dwellings*, must be well cleared, to destroy, by the interposition of free ventilation, the malarious vapours that would otherwise envelope and pervade these new barracks. In like manner swampy grounds in the lower vicinity of such stations had to be drained or cleared ; and I may here mention that, though all the new stations of "South-Point," "Navy Point," "Perseverance Point," and "Port Mouat," are on fine dry elevations, with a free ventilation now effected about them, there is *not one* of these stations to *get at* which for clearance morass at their bases had not to be crossed and cleared for the formation of paths, space for the stowage of material, temporary shelter for dwelling, cooking in, &c., for the first labourers ; and precisely the same difficulty had to be encountered at the first clearances for the older stations of "Aberdeen," "Haddo," and the first advances at the foot of the hills towards "Mount Harriet." Any one who has seen Port Blair as it was will admit that there is not a station or site, let it be ever so desirable, that was not belted in around the shores with mangrove, all growing more or less in swamps or in low jungle of dense rank growth in moist bottoms. It will be seen further on, that I had already drawn attention to the above facts, *vide* para. 8 of this letter.

The Chief Commissioner does not consider it at all advisable to further crowd up the Settlement on Ross Island by building any new Hospitals or Barracks there ; indeed, he thinks that the number of convicts already located there is too numerous.

4. To illustrate, in connection with Ross Island alone, the difficulties under which I have to labour, with reference to meeting the constant and heavy demands for labour by the Executive Engineer of this Settlement, I may mention that the requirements of that Officer in August and September last were so great as to call forth the suggestion marginally noted, conveyed in his letter to my address No. 222 of 27th September 1866. I was therefore compelled to discontinue all work in progress under my personal superintendence, such as sanitary clearance and improvement, for ventilation and healthiness about hospitals, barracks, draining wet lands, extension of saniary arrangements, maintaining practicable roads injured by heavy rains, repairs to land slips caused by necessary neglect in this very particular, removal of rank vegetation which at that time grew thickly in all directions, and repairing damages by stormy weather to thatched Government buildings. I was also necessitated to reduce the conservancy and convict clothing making parties, and to put a stop to other useful and needful works in progress ; and although anxious in every possible way to meet the demands of the Public Works Department, it must, I respectfully submit, be borne in mind, that it was also my duty to prevent every risk I could to the health of the convicts committed to my care, and to maintain every possible arrangement that could conduce thereto, and here I may quote the opinion of the Senior Medical Officer upon the suggestion above marginally quoted. "I am also of opinion that the Executive Engineer's suggestion to import "daily to this Island, for the purpose of working in the Public Works Department, convicts "from 'Navy Bay' and 'Mount Harriet,' could not be carried out without involving the "most *lamentable* consequences. These men would have, as you are quite aware, to be up "before break of day, so as to cook a meal for themselves, after which they would have to parade, "and with reference to those at 'Mount Harriet' would have to march down the 'Mount,' "all the distance to the sea-side, where they would not improbably have frequently to wait "with their clothing soaked through with rain the arrival of the Steamer, in which wet "condition they would arrive at 'Ross,' and *then* have to work all day without food, and at "length would have to return to their station arriving at 'Hope Town' when nearly or quite "dark, then to toil their way up to 'Mount Harriet,' perhaps in rain again, after which they

I would take this opportunity of suggesting that, as the Steamer "Diana" is now in moderate working order, she might be employed in conveying men daily from "Navy Point" and "Harriet," at which places we have not just now any (engineer's) work going on, to Ross for employment at least until the whole of our sites on this Island are ready.

" would have to cook their meals as best they could in the dark, exhausted also and worn out as " they necessarily would be, but nevertheless still *expected* to undergo the same ordeal " regularly every day. I can well understand that the Officers of the Engineer's Department " are naturally desirous of expediting the progress of their works as much as they possibly can; " but at the same time it must be borne in mind, that the necessity for any pressure being had " recourse to, as formerly, to accelerate the completion of buildings for shelter, &c., no longer " exists, as happily both the troops and convicts are at present located in good commodious " barracks, and that there are moreover at present many other demands for the labour of the " prisoners of a *much more urgent nature* for the benefit of the Settlement." I may mention that this letter was invited by myself from Dr. Morton, and was but the re-echo of my own sentiments first expressed to him, and which he declared had for some time also been his own. It will be in the Chief Commissioner's recollection that I brought all these circumstances to notice, but that he did not consider it necessary to discuss them, and desired the full supply of labor to the Public Works Department, copies of which correspondence I attach for reference marked A to J.

5. Referring to the 4th para. of Mr. Secretary Bayley's letter No. 1746, I am not aware that any "Gaiters" or "Kuddauns" were recommended by Dr. Morton, unless the late Senior Medical Officer refers to *sandals* as worn by the Natives of India; if so, I have the honor to report that 2,000 pairs of the above patterns to suit men, both of the up-country and the south of India, were sent for, on my suggestion to Dr. Morton, and which were received in October last, and supplied to all convicts who were employed at work on which it was considered advisable for them to wear such protection.

6. In connection with para. 5 of Mr. Secretary Bayley's letter No. 1746, I beg to quote from my letter No. 156 of 28th November 1866, to the address of Secretary to the Chief Commissioner:—" With reference to para. 2 of Mr. Under Secretary Howell's letter No. 561 of 10th November 1866 above quoted, I beg respectfully to report, for the " information of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council, " that my remark under head 'health of convicts' was merely intended to draw attention " to the necessity that exists for avoiding, as far as possible, exposure of the convicts working " in moist or swamp localities, as was done in the opening out of the new stations that have " recently been formed at 'Navy Point,' 'Command Point,' 'Perseverance Point,' 'South " Point' and 'Port Mouat,' at all of which places the stations are situated on well elevated " sites, instead of employing the convicts in the clearance about Port Blair of swampy " grounds, the removal of jungle and mangrove, &c., (which operations have been recom- " mended), but wherein the convicts would be exposed to all the danger of suffering from " those illnesses which a constant exposure at labor in such localities would entail, and which, " even if undertaken in low lands for rice cultivation, would need to be done with extreme " caution, and at no small risk. As increase in the convict population has taken place, the " limits of the Settlement have of necessity been extended. It is necessary also to keep " the convicts well at work, and, as far as possible, at such work as is not prejudicial to health. " The difficulty has been, as work could not always be found for them within the old limits of " the Settlement, to effect this in our more recent operations. I would desire, therefore, to " mention, that the only work in *swampy grounds* that has been undertaken during the " current year, was in bunding off 'Phœnix Bay,' a work which was absolutely necessary in " order to prevent as much as possible the malarious atmosphere arising from a swamp in that " locality, affecting the health of the convicts stationed at 'Aberdeen,' and in working a " primary clearance of some marshy ground at the base of 'Navy Point,' 'Perseverance " Point," and the station of '*Port Mouat*,' which work it was necessary to undertake in " order to *reach* the jungles on the rising grounds of those localities, where it was intended " to make a clearance for the proposed stations. In making those clearances, therefore, there " was necessarily some temporary risk of health in spite of every precaution. Stringent orders " have always been issued to every Officer or Overseer concerned in the Settlement, not to " put any convicts to work in moist or marshy localities except under special instructions from " myself, and in such cases they are provided with *sandals*, and with medical remedies, " which are actually on the ground. In case of any cut or injuries likely to result in ulcer, " rum and quinine are adminstered, and other necessary precautions taken to prevent " as much as possible the suffering from fevers, sores, or other ailments likely to result from " such employment."

7. With reference to the penultimate para. of Mr. Secretary Bayley's letter under reply, I have the honor to invite attention to the letters marginally noted, from which it will be seen that the issue of fresh meat to convicts has had my earnest attention ever since I assumed charge of the superintendency of this Settlement; but finding that the indents of the Commissariat Department were in respect of keeping up a supply of sheep and slaughter cattle very imperfectly and at lengthened intervals complied with, I at last invited the attention of the Supreme Government to the paucity of the issue of fresh meat to convicts, by inserting in my Monthly Report for July 1866, and following months, under Head "State of the Commissariat Department," the actual issue during such month under report, and in which the irregularity and uncer-

No. 184 of 1st April 1864, to the address of the Under Secretary to Government, Home Department.
No. 65, dated 26th September, 1864, to the address of the Commissioner, Tenasserim Division, B. B.
No. 7, dated 9th May 1865, to the address of the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, B. B.
No. 63, dated 24th June 1865, to the address of the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, B. B.

tainty of the supply of sheep from Calcutta was duly brought to notice, and consequent on which the Sub-Assistant Commissary General was never able to meet my requirements for the labouring convicts in respect of the issue of fresh meat to any adequate extent. On this head, I quote from my Monthly Report as under:

JULY 1866.

"The supply of sheep has fallen short again. The 500 sheep brought by the Michael "Angelo on the 24th June being nearly expended. During July there have been only "1997¼ lbs (beef 1,097 lbs, mutton 900¼ lbs—total 1,997¼ lbs) of fresh meat available "for issue to the labouring convict population, and deducting sick, for whom fresh meat "is separately provided, it will be seen that there has been only 1-5th of a lb per man available "for issue in the whole month. Until we have a certain fixed monthly communication with Cal-"cutta, we shall be continually placed in difficulties, especially in regard to the supply of sheep."

AUGUST 1866.

"No sheep having been received, the issue of mutton has been curtailed, it being "retained principally for the use of the hospitals. During the month there have been only "1,754¾ lbs of fresh meat available for sale to the labouring convicts, in the following propor-"tions:—

Beef	...	lbs 1,696
Mutton		„ 58¾
Total	...	lbs. 1,754¾

"This gives but 1-3rd of a lb per head of fresh meat for the whole month.

SEPTEMBER 1866.

"It has been necessary to obtain a supply of sheep for hospital consumption from "Burmah, in consequence of the failure of the Calcutta supply; this has entailed some "extra expense, the price in Burmah being greater than that in Calcutta; 100 sheep were "obtained."

OCTOBER 1866.

"Under this head the Sub-Assistant Commissary General reports, that no vessel "having arrived from Calcutta during the month, four and a quarter months have "elapsed without the receipt of consignment of provisions. There is still however a sup-"ply of the principal articles of comsumption in hand. The greatest inconvenience has "arisen from the want of sheep, our demands not having been nearly complied with. The "quantity of fresh meat issued during the month to the laboring convicts has been 2,151 lbs. "as under:—

Beef	lbs.	2,042
Mutton	„	109
Total	lbs.	2151

"which gives an average issue of only 5½ oz. of fresh meat for each convict for the whole "month. This is about the same quantity reported as available for issue in the previous "month's report."

NOVEMBER 1866.

"Under this head the Sub-Assistant Commissary General reports that a consignment "of sheep having been received during the month, the issue of mutton has been recommenced "and as another consignment may shortly be expected from Calcutta, we shall doubtless, "be able to go on without again* curtailing "the issue of mutton, which however would "have to be done, should a vessel not arrive "during December.

8. "On the concluding para. of Secre-"tary Bayley's letter No. 1756, I have the "honor to state that the Officiating Senior "Medical Officer has been called upon to "render a specific statement of the causes of "the death of the Madras convicts included "in the casualty return for May† 1866, copy "of which is hereto attached for ready refer-"ence.‡ A copy of Statement A, which accompanied each Monthly Report will be regularly submitted to the Madras Government as directed, distinguishing the Madras convicts thereon, showing the cause of death in each case, as also the aggregate number of Madras convicts in the Settlement. As bearing upon this matter I beg here to draw attention to an extract from the Sanitary Report on Port Blair for 1866, with which I have been furnished by the Officiating Senior Medical Officer, who, in his para. No. 14, states:—"The mortality has been considered greater than

* This however is very doubtful if the laboring convicts are allowed to purchase ½ a pound of fresh meat twice a week. The issue of fresh meat to convicts being again very low, that during November was

Beef	1,204 lbs.
Mutton	490 „
	1,694

or only 4½ oz. for each labouring convict for the whole month.

† Which has been duly forwarded to that Government.

‡ Marked A.

" that of last year, which was a very healthy year, and many of the prisoners despatched " from the various Presidencies were not received till near the close of it. This circumstance " alone accounts for great difference in the proportion of fatal cases, as a very great " number of the deaths take place amongst men who have not been more than a year " in the Settlement; the rate of mortality for the last three years will be seen by the follow- " ing Tabular Statement:—

Months.	1864.			1865.			1866.		
	Numerical Strength.	Deaths.	Percentage of deaths to Strength.	Numerical Strength.	Deaths.	Percentage of deaths to Strength.	Numerical Strength.	Deaths.	Percentage of deaths to Strength.
January	3183	62	1·94	3609	27	·74	5034	24	·47
February	3183	45	1·44	3635	19	·52	5444	25	·44
March	3174	49	1·55	3622	18	·49	5643	42	·74
April	3232	25	·77	3646	24	·65	5833	43	·73
May	3188	50	1 56	3664	28	·76	6385	81	1·26
June	3410	42	1·23	3790	36	·94	6306	68	1·07
July	3355	50	1·49	3814	25	·65	6409	96	1·49
August...	3323	37	1 11	3814	18	·37	6396	79	1·23
September	3286	18	·54	3811	9	·23	6271	62	·98
October	3300	23	·69	4009	15	·37	6206	61	·98
November	3877	37	1·09	4538	19	·41	6485	39	60
December	3320	41	1·23	5163	20	·38	6479	37	·57
Total	3278	479	14·64	3926	258	6·57	6874	657	10·56

" Appended is a Statement* showing the ages of the convicts who died in 1866, from " which it will be seen that over 40 per cent. of the total deaths " occurred amongst men of 40 years of age and upwards, a circum- " stance in itself sufficient to show that men of that advanced age are not suitable subjects to " be transported; and, as the matter has already been repeatedly noticed in former Reports, I " need only strongly urge that it be again brought to the notice of Government with a view " to prevent infirm, decrepid, old men being sent to the Settlement to die."

* Copy attached marked L.

The average ages of the 62 convicts, who died in August 1866, and 38 in September 1866, are given in para. 2 of this Report

9. It has been shown that, as far as practicable, convicts on arrival are retained for acclimatisation for from three to six months on Ross Island; but both space and accommodation on Ross are limited. Virtually, the Executive Engineer's labor requirements thereon at this present time are more than the proper barrack space can accommodate; hence when drafts of healthy looking convicts have been transferred to out-stations, it has appeared unfair that the many convicts longer resident there, and (for the climate is very relaxing) less strong, because they were considered acclimatised, should have the hardest work assigned them, and robust fellows stand by and not put to take their turn at such work also. My orders to Overseers have always been, and I have as far as able made it my duty to see them obeyed, that as a rule no unhealthy looking convicts, as described in para. 11 of Dr. Morton's Report, should be put to such labour as marsh and jungle clearance,—only such who seemed physically fit. The medical subordinates also on the spot were, at my request to Dr. Morton, desired to watch that this was attended to. I do not desire to show that this employment was not likely to be injurious to health; what I do most earnestly desire is, that consideration should be given to the object that was in view, that certainly, as has been proved, warranted, indeed necessitated, a work of temporary risk, but which, in sanitary results, has been decidedly successful (*vide* Dr. Morton's letter quoted in para. 3 of this letter.)

10. Being confident that, where I could afford the Government, whenever desired, satisfactory explanation of my proceedings, I should be supported therein, I have felt that in acting on my own judgment (always in sanitary matters, with Dr. Morton's advice), that some latitude of discretion was allowed me; and I trust that in consideration of the very difficult charge that I have, and the opposite interests I have to endeavour to reconcile into all my proceedings, that the proper bounds of this confidence have not been exceeded. Let me respectfully remark that, having this fact in view, I, as the Superintendent of Port Blair, have on the one hand been ordered by the Supreme Government to strain every nerve for the provision of shelter for convicts; that on the other, the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah has urged the necessity for reclaiming portions of the country around Port Blair to grow rice, recommending that certain swampy valleys flooded by Salt Water Creeks should be reclaimed; that again on the one hand, the late Senior Medical Officer recommended, and I concurred in, that unacclimatised prisoners should not be worked in the jungles; and again, on the other, that the demands for labour by the Executive Engineer, and supplying the same so as to advance such their *work briskly*, and yet no matter what the nature of the labour, or the period of the year, to obtain results that will satisfy the Government in the Public Works

Department, as to progress on the one hand, and the Medical Department as to immunity from sickness and improved health on the other, and still to keep the convicts in such health at their work, to avert that proneness to escape, especially from toil, in the hot dry season, and in the heavy monsoons, that attends any extra pressure on their physical ability of endurance. It must be conceded that these must be sources of constant anxiety to me, and such as are by no means easy of management, having regard to the welfare of the Commissariat, Marine, Medical, and other Departments, with the necessary every-day requirements of the Settlement to provide for, and to afford satisfaction to all the Officers of these various Departments. My position is one of no small difficulty to carry out all these opposite wishes, especially in such a way as will equally satisfy the Government in each Departmental Head. These are facts that from time to time have been noticed in my various despatches, which I hoped had reached the Government, but which, from the nature of the Report now called for, I cannot but conclude have not been forwarded. It may be remembered that in my Memorandum to Government dated Calcutta, the 8th February 1866, I entreated that I might be allowed the privilege of direct communication with the Home Department; and that I pointed out that "under present circumstances so much ground and time are lost in the "representation and interchange of communications, that the advancement and interests of the "Settlement, and my own position both suffer, and the Government also by not being in "prompt possession of all reports, particulars and requirements affecting the position, pro-"gress, and administration of the Settlement, and further by such delay (for thus a season or an "opportunity is often lost) expenses are unavoidably incurred that might be obviated or "lessened, and well-timed instead of hurried provision made for all projects present and future, "that all Settlement Departments would be able to forsee and satisfactorily arrange for."

11. In conclusion I beg respectfully to state that conscientiously feeling, as I do, that I have ever endeavoured to the utmost to give the closest effect practicable to the orders of Government, as regards the health of the convicts committed to my charge, the one great object of common anxious care that constantly engaged the attention of the late Dr. Morton and myself, I have painfully felt the strong reprobation that has fallen on me, but which I feel confident that the contents of this letter will prove me to have far from merited, and will therefore remove.

No. 493, dated 6th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction, to acknowledge your No. 214 of 6th March last. This letter was written in explanation of certain inquiries, contained in Home Secretary's letter No. 1746, of 28th December 1866. The questions to be answered were three in number. These were—

1*st.*—Why you apparently had not followed Dr. Morton's remonstrances on the subject of sending unacclimatised convicts to clear jungle?

2*nd.*—Regarding prisoners working in swamps being provided with leather protection for the feet and legs; and *lastly*, report was required on the paucity of meat diet.

There was indeed a fourth point, but this in effect merely required the Chief Commissioner to caution you against working convicts in swamps during the rains.

2. Your reply is certainly a very elaborate one, (it comprised 55 pages of foolscap), so much so, that it was requisite to print it in order fully to grasp the many points it touched on. When printed it was necessary to divide your 11 paras. in 24, to eliminate some of the assertions which appeared to call for remarks.

3. I send you a printed copy of your own letter with my remarks in rough, and I think when you come to see what labor arises from the exuberant fluency of your despatches, you will agree with me that your letter No. 214 is capable of being much condensed, and with great advantage. If you had attended to answering the three distinct questions you could easily have stated all that was necessary on one side of a sheet of foolscap, instead of travelling over 55 pages. These have had to be commented on by me, and it is probable you may now see occasion to add further explanations, so there is no seeing where the matter will end; but the introduction of irrelevant matter into a despatch is a serious evil. The unnecessary labor it entails in the Secretariat Office in Rangoon and Calcutta is becoming formidable, and the end of it may be that you will be restricted to one clerk, for in the present state of matters, were your wish carried out of having more clerks, it would be indispensable that my Office be increased also.

4. In corroboration of what I have stated, I will take paras. 10 and 11, the peroration (if I may use the term) of your letter. The matter occupies 8 pages, and I will ask you if it has anything to do with any one of the three questions on which you were asked to report. As a specimen of how far one can extend a letter unnecessarily, it is perfectly appalling.

5. Before forwarding your No. 214 to Government, I have thought it as well to submit it to you with my remarks, in case you may wish to curtail or add to it, or offer further explanations; and I request the return of it with my rough remarks, with such alterations or explanations as you may wish to make.

No. 155, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

Copy of printed letter No. 214, dated 6th March, 1866, from Superintendent, Port Blair, to Captain Hildeband, Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, with written remark thereon by Major Davies, thereto appended.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter marked No. 493, of 6th instant, with enclosures as per margin, which I have returned as requested. After a careful consideration of your remarks on my letter to your address, No. 214 of 8th March last, and of your letter, in which you state that the Home Secretary's No. 1746 of 28th December last merely required answers to three questions which you state, I have the honor, referring to the printed copy of my letter No. 214, which you have reparagraphed, to request that paras. 8, 14 and 16 may be considered as my reply to those three questions, and I would beg that my last paragraph only (originally No 11) may be considered as added thereto; the remainder of my communication under reference, seeing how it may take up valuable time, I would beg now not to intrude upon the Secretariat offices.

No. 11, dated 26th April, 1867.

From—Dr. A. J. Cowie, *Senior Medical Officer, and President, Sanitary Committee,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In reply to your Memo. No. 393 of yesterday's date, I have the honor to state that, the Sanitary Committee recommend strongly the Steamer "Kwangtung" being despatched for the purpose of bringing as many cocoanuts for planting in these islands as possible. It is further suggested that, on the return of that vessel from Rangoon, she should bring to this Settlement as many seeds and plants of useful trees for the same object.

The Committee agree with you that unless steps are immediately taken in this matter, nothing can be done in the way of planting until the commencement of the next monsoon.

No. 393, dated 26th May, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to forward copy of letter No. 11 of this date, from the President of the Sanitary Committee now sitting at Port Blair, recommending the despatch of the Steamer "Kwangtung" for the purpose of bringing cocoanuts for planting in these islands and other useful seeds and plants for the same object, and requests to know if there are objections to carrying out the suggestions of the Committee.

No. 43, dated 27th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Memo. No. 393 of yesterday's date, forwarding copy of a letter No. 11 of the same date from the President, Sanitary Committee, recommending the despatch of the Steamer "Kwangtung" for the purpose of bringing cocoanuts to these islands, and other useful plants and seeds for the same object, and requesting to know if there are any objections in carrying out the suggestions of the Committee. In reply, the undersigned begs to state that there could be no objections to such useful projects, and with reference thereto begs to forward enclosed extract of para. 4 from his letter No. 32 of yesterday's date, which touches on this very matter.

2. The undersigned further begs to state that he has already written to the Cocos Island Company, the Secretary to the Agricultural and Horticultural Society, and to the Assistant Commissary General, Rangoon, for cocoanuts and useful plants and seeds.

3. The undersigned takes the opportunity to mention that, on the recent occasion of the Schooner "Alexandra" proceeding to Mergui, he made a request for young trees or plants to the Deputy Commissioner, but was not favoured with any.

Extract of letter No. 32 of the 26th April, 1867, from Superintendent, Port Blair, to Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

"Para. 4.—You suggest in para. 6 of your letter that it would be advisable to send the "Kwangtung" to the neighbouring islands to procure a ship-load of cocoanuts; the only place where they could be procured in this group of islands is from Cocos, but those islands have already been granted by Government to a Company; and having requested Captain Duncan to proceed to "Car Nicobars" for the same purpose, that Officer has stated that the vessel is not in a condition to proceed to such a distance, and has submitted a letter from his Chief Engineer, stating that the vessel ought to be docked for repairing her boilers, machinery, &c. I purpose therefore to apply for cocoanuts from Rangoon in the way you have suggested to me, and I will endeavor to obtain a supply of "bael' and 'jack' seeds."

No. 317, dated 17th April, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will be good enough to furnish me with a return of the entire population on Ross Island, this day, according to the subjoined form :—

1.	2.		3.		4.		5.
NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT.	FREE.		SELF-SUPPORTERS.		CONVICTS.		REMARKS.
	Native.	European.	Native.	European.	Native.	European.	

No. 24, dated 24th April, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

With reference to letter No. 317, dated the 17th instant, the undersigned has the honor to forward the enclosed return shewing the population on Ross Island, on that date, as therein called for.

Return shewing entire Population on Ross Island on the 17th April, 1867.

NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT.	FREE.					CONVICTS.									REMARKS.
						Self-Supporting.				Laboring.					
	Native.		European.		Children.	Native.		European.		Native.		European		Children.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.& F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.& F.	
Superintendent's Establishment.															
Superintendent ...	...	...	1												
Assistant Ditto ...	...	...	1												
Accountant ..	...	...	1												
Clerks ...	2	..	2												
Treasurer ...	1														
Interpreter ...	1														
Superintendent's Peons ...	...	...	1												
Overseer ...	...	...	1												
Servants ...	4														
Families ...	...	5	...	2	16										
Public Works Department															
Engineers ...	...	..	2												
Upper Subordinates ...	1	..	2												
Accountant ...	...	..	1												
Clerks ...	...	...	5												
Carpenters ...	169														
Stone-cutters and Masons ...	47														
Families ...	...	4	...	...	6										
Carried forward .	225	9	17	2	22	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	

Return shewing entire Population on Ross Island on the 17th April 1867.—(Concluded.)

Nature of Employment.	Free.					Convicts.									Remarks.
						Self-Supporting.				Labouring.					
	Native.		European.		Children.	Native.		European.		Native.		European.		Children.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M. & F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M. & F.	
Brought forward	225	9	17	2	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Commissariat Department.															
Ex. Commissariat Officer ...	...	...	1												
Staff Sergeants ...	...	...	2												
Clerks ...	1	...	3												
Store-keepers ...	1														
Hospital Purveyors ...	1														
Ditto servants ...	8														
Cattle Jemadars ...	2														
Cooper ...	1														
Cook's Settlement, Marine service ...	3														
Sappers and Miners ...	1														
Coolies ...	3														
Servants ...	4														
Families ...	...	5	...	2	6										
Military Department.															
Fighting men ...	121	...	114												
Artificers ...	5														
Bheasties ...	7														
Dhobies ..	7														
Servants ...	6														
Families ...	...	2	...	1	2										
Medical Establishment.															
Families ...	14	...	11												
Harbour Master's Department...	...	...	...	2	5										
Harbour Master ...	...	...	1												
Blacksmith ...	1														
Condensing Artificer ...	1														
Families ...															
Ecclesiastical Department.															
Chaplain ...	...	...	1												
Clerk ...	...	...	1												
Cook ...	1														
Families ...	...	...	...	2	5										
Christian Prisoners.															
Clerks ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3			
Painters ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2			
Carpenters ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1			
Printer ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1			
Overseers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2			
Native Convicts.															
Self-supporting ...	...	...	...	...	...	67	39								
Labouring } Servants ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2020	111				
Division Gangsmen ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	105					
Sub-Division ditto ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6					
Section Gangsmen ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23					
Families ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	107					
Residents.															
Shop-keepers ...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	74	
Scripture Reader ...	1														
Servants ...	1	2													
Families of servants and others...	..	9	...	2	3										
Total ...	417	27	150	12	43	67	39	...	...	2321	111	9	...	74	

No. 374, dated 25th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to call attention to the return of population on Ross Island forwarded with your Memo. No. 24.

2. On comparing the Statement received from you, with the daily reports received from Captain Fraser the same day, the undersigned begs to point out the following discrepancies, which he requests may be explained :—

	Males.	*Females*			*M.*	*F.*
			Self-Supporting Convicts.			
This shows	67	39	The daily reports	...	4	6
			Laboring Convicts.			
Ditto	2,020	111	The daily reports	...	2,006	3
			Sub-Division Gangsmen.			
Ditto	6	0		...	7	0
			Section Gangsmen.			
Ditto	23		The daily reports	...	14	0

No. 38, dated 27th April, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT. COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

Memo. No. 374, dated 27th April, 1867, from the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor, with reference to Memo. as per margin, to forward enclosed a revised Statement showing the convict population on Ross Island as it stood on the 17th instant. The daily reports for that date are herewith enclosed.

Revised Statement showing the entire Convict Population on Ross Island on the 17th April, 1867.

NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT.	CONVICTS.									REMARKS.
	SELF-SUPPORTERS.				LABORING.					
	Native				Native.					
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Christian Prisoners.										
Clerks	...	...	...	..	..	..	5	...	...	These men are not entered in daily reports.
Printers	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	...	...	
Overseers	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	
Painters	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	
Servants	...	...	...	...	...		1	...	..	
Sail-makers	...	...	...	..	...	...	2	...	...	
School-masters	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	..	...	
Book-binder	...	...	...	...	...	1		...	...	
Native Prisoners.										
Asiatics licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Employed as Writers ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	..	...	...	
	...	...	...	...	...	238*	..	...	..	Parambikins included under head Gangsman.
Self-supporters	68	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Servants hired and Government* ...	...	...	...	...	...	165	...	...	...	
Police*	...	...	...	...	...	39	...	...	...	
	...	...	...	...	...	*116	2	...	...	
Laboring Convicts ...	...	...	...	...	...	1869	111	...	..	
Children of Convicts ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	74	
Total, ...	68	39	...	...	2433	*113	*15	...	74	

* Sic in copy.

(Signed) B. FORD, *Lieut.-Colonel,*
Superintendent, Port Blair.

No. 495, dated 6th May. 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Surgeon Rean, *Senior Medical Officer.*

I have the honor to request your consideration of the present position of the Christian grave-yard on Ross Island. It is in the slope of the hill, and below it, at no great distance, is a tank, the water of which is used for all purposes.

2. In the event of any epidemic occurring here, it is probable in such a small crowded place as this Island, the effects of burying any large number of bodies in the present burying-ground might prove very deleterious. I should suggest the propriety of the present burying-ground being closed, and some other site found nearer the level of the sea; and if this cannot be done, then one is to be found on the main land.

3. Regarding the present burying-ground it might be as well to have a map which should delineate the exact spot where each tomb now stands; these might then be laid flat, and the whole covered with a few inches of earth. The place might be planted with flowers and grass; by this means a great eye-sore would be removed, and the tomb-stones would be preserved much longer, by not being exposed to the action of a tropical climate and the heat.

No. 51, dated 29th April, 1867.

From—Lieut. Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

No. 829, dated 27th April, 1867.
" 833, " "
" 29, " "

I have the honor to forward enclosed copies of letters as per margin to my address from the Senior Medical Officer, Port Blair. His letter No. 829 crossed mine to him (copy also enclosed) of the same date, and on the same subject. You will observe that I applied to Dr. Cowie to select 300 men for removal to out-stations to make way for 300 recent arrivals; but it will be seen that Dr. Cowie applies for the removal of 800 men from off Ross Island.

2. I beg to inform you that the Executive Engineer's daily requirements on Ross Island, amount to the number of convicts that Dr. Cowie requires to be removed; and, if this be carried out, the Public Works Department on Ross Island will come to a stand-still.

3. You are yourself aware how imperative are the orders of Government that I should afford all convict labor that can possibly be made available for the Public Works Department for the rapid completion of shelter and other important works now in hand, on which it is directed that every nerve should be strained. The most important work now in progress on Ross Island is the barrack for European troops, and to which the labor on Ross Island, as supplied to the Executive Engineer, is devoted. I believe that just now Lieutenant Cumming is closing in the terrace roofs of the completed portion of that barrack; and if this work be now stopped with the monsoon so close at hand, that not only will the safety of the building be jeopardized, but it will frustrate the intention of shortly getting the Sappers into that portion of the building temporarily.

4. You will see, then, the dilemma that I am placed in by the conflicting requirements of the Senior Medical Officer and the Executive Engineer; and seeing, therefore, that you are now present in this Settlement to give effect to the Chief Commissioner's instructions on various matters for the benefit and improvement of the Settlement, I would request that you will favor me with any instructions that you may be in possession of from the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah that may reconcile these matters to the welfare of the Settlement in both respects. I may mention that I have this day given orders for the removal of 300 laboring convicts after the 1st proximo from Ross Island. The number that will remain, *viz.* 1,569, may, if carefully distributed through the semi-permanent and temporary barracks, be sufficient to continue the works on Ross Island, without prejudice to their health till the close, say the end of November, of the S. W. monsoon.

P. S.—In semi-permanent and temporary barracks I have plenty accommodation for 1,550 men, to say nothing of the hospitals, wherein 10 per cent. of the above may be reckoned to be always under treatment.

No. 829, dated 27th April, 1867.

From—Dr. A. J. Cowie, *Staff Surgeon, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

Owing to the recent arrival of two batches of convicts from India, amounting to 289 in number, the barracks in this Island are greatly over-crowded. I have the honor to request that you will remove as early as possible 800 (eight hundred) of the convicts who have been on Ross Island over four months at least to the other stations.

No. 29, dated 27th April, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Senior Medical Officer, and President, Sanitary Committee, Port Blair

Consequent on the arrival on this Settlement, within the last two days, of 300 convicts, I am desirous of removing that number from Ross Island.

I have the honor, therefore, to request that you will be good enough to inform me when it will be convenient for you to inspect the convicts for a selection for the above purpose.

No 853, dated 27th April, 1867.

From—Surgeon A. J. Cowie, *Senior Medical Officer, Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

In reply to your letter No. 29 of to-day's date, I have the honor to state that, I am ready at any moment from now to inspect the convicts you propose to remove from Ross Island to the out-stations.

I would, however, suggest that men who have been in this Island above four months only should be sent away, and that you will re-consider my letter of this morning's date to your address, recommending that at least 800 men be removed from Ross Island to make room for the fresh arrivals from India. Not counting these latter, the barracks on this Island have for some time been over-crowded by nearly 500 (five hundred) men. Such a state of things cannot continue for long without being attended by serious consequences. I do, therefore, most urgently recommend that the remedy be applied at once by the removal of the 800 convicts in excess of the number allowed by Government to occupy these buildings.

No. 513, dated 6th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to acknowledge your Nos. 51, dated 29th April, and 89, dated 3rd May, on the subject of the over-crowded state of Ross Island. I must say I entirely concur with Dr Cowie that Ross Island is getting over-crowded. I went into one prisoner-barrack the other day calculated to hold 161 prisoners in that barrack During the previous night, 163 prisoners had slept there. Not only are the prisoners' barracks over-crowded, but as the available space for houses is very limited, too many self-supporting prisoners have been allowed to set up here. Lieutenant Cumming has furnished me with a map in which I have marked two rows of huts $\frac{A\ A}{A\ A}$ which, if necessity requires, might be pulled down, and the space made available for prisoners' barracks or clerks' quarters. This matter of pulling down houses I must leave to your discretion. For my own part I should be loathe to pull down what no doubt the occupants place great store upon and which they have probably only been able to erect after years of hard savings and toil. Should it at any time be absolutely necessary to pull down a self-supporter's house on public grounds, I think the sufferer should be allowed some convicts' labor *free* to enable him to put up another in whatever part of the Settlement is available for him, and also that he should have some reasonable compensation in Tokens, out of the fund which is derived from fees paid by the self-supporters. The real remedy for the evil complained of by Dr. Cowie lies, I apprehend, in reducing the labor on Ross Island to the lowest possible dimension. This is a matter on which I solicit your serious consideration. Every individual prisoner's labor, withdrawn from actual industrial occupation,—industrial in a reproductive sense,—represents an actual loss to Government of, at least, what that individual prisoner costs to Government, and this cost, at a very moderate estimate, cannot be put down at less than, say, Rs. 20 a month. Now I put it to you, cannot the number of prisoners employed on Ross Island on what is called Settlement work (I exclude entirely the Public Works Department) be reduced?

On Saturday, I observed 14 prisoners occupied in digging up an old stump, and watching these men were one and off two toledars and some other official. To-day, the operation is going on of filling up the hole caused by the removal of the stump. Perhaps, if the stump had been cut or burned level with the ground the object in view might have been gained; but whether this particular case is applicable or not, I must confess there appears to me to be a great deal of work carried on here, which I will not pronounce unnecessary, but it would certainly be advantageous to postpone whatever is not absolutely necessary to be done in deference to works of real urgency. For instance, 12 men are employed in manufacturing paper and 10 on oil, and these are useful employments in their way, but 22 men by Rs 20= Rs 440 a month. If these men were employed in planting what would hereafter yield produce would it not be more satisfactory? Then, there are 15 to 16 painters; perhaps these could be reduced. The number of servants allowed is, I think, excessive: Captain Fraser, 12; Mr. Green is allowed 6; Officers' Mess, 9; Captain Surplice, 8 Supposing, exclusive of the men employed in the Public Work Department, and exclusive of prisoners employed on other Departmental works, such as Commissariat, attendants on sick, &c, you limited yourself to a maximum of 50 men for ordinary Settlement work on Ross Island, would not that suffice? Of

course the services of the Commissariat coolies and Marine men for occasional work, when not required on their own particular branch of the service, could be taken advantage of.

I think it unadvisable that so many prisoners of the Marine Department should sleep on Ross Island. They might combine, seize a boat, and in the absence of any steamers, might overpower and carry off a schooner or ship; could not some of them live on South Point? The Overseer of the Commissariat stock should reside near his charge, which is a most valuable one; this would leave one house vacant.

For a small Island with such limited space, I think the compound of the clerks might be reduced; but I do not press this on all cases, as plenty of ventilation is necessary. Some of the European prisoners might be sent to other Settlements whenever they could be made useful.

Regarding the existing practice of keeping new arrivals on Ross Island for from three to six months, as urged by the late Dr. Morton, I think it probable some modification might be introduced. To men coming here at the commencement of the monsoon, it might be of advantage to remain here for a short time, in preference to sending them to work in the jungles; but it appears to me that prisoners who arrived here in a good state during the healthy months, might be sent to any reasonable work at the out-stations at once. From what I have seen of the prisoners at out stations, it is my belief that many, who were called acclimatized men, and who have worked severals years here, were more deserving and more fitting objects to be brought into Ross Island to enjoy its pure air, than healthy young men just arrived. This is a point on which you might consult the present Senior Medical Officer, after he has had some experience of the place; and if his opinion should agree with mine (and I believe your own opinion coincides with my own,) this would enable you to reduce the number of prisoners on Ross Island, with very great advantage to Government, as little or nothing can be done on Ross Island in a reproductive sense.

No. 126, dated 8th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 513 of the 6th instant, in which you remark on the over-crowding on Ross Island convict barracks.

2. I beg to inform you that such over-crowding was a matter of necessity, but temporary only. Since you saw the barracks, 300 men have been drafted therefrom; and I drew your attention in my communication No. 44 of 27th April, 1867, to your address, to the fact of my being now engaged in constructing a large temporary barrack, which, I informed you, would accommodate 160 men. The barrack accommodation for those convicts that are now on Ross is in my opinion sufficient; it is only when batches of convicts arrive that there is a temporary crowding, until an equal number can be transferred to other stations.

3. As a further relief under such circumstances, I propose, now that the hulk Erin-go-bragh has been brought back from Port Mouat, to put 150 convicts of the 9th or Marine Division to live on board.

4. Referring to the map with which you have been furnished by Lieutenant Cumming, which you forwarded to me, on which you have marked two rows of huts A A, and remark that such localities might be made available for prisoners' barracks or clerks' quarters, I beg to inform you that the site of the higher row of model huts hardly affords width enough, in my opinion, for convicts' barracks, though I think that a portion of the native clerk's lines might be advantageously erected on that locality. The lower lines A A consists of temporary cooking sheds for the use of the convicts of the 10th Division; these I purpose to remove when I have completed further cooking accommodation of a more permanent character now in progress, and the site can then be made available to the Executive Engineer.

5. I take note of your suggestion, with reference to compensation to convicts whose huts may hereafter be pulled down on these sites.

6. Without doubt the real remedy against over-crowding lies in reducing the labor on Ross Island to its lowest possible dimension.

7. Excluding the Public Works Department, you put it to me whether a number of prisoners employed on Ross Island, on what is called Settlement works, perhaps you are not aware are such temporary works as the Executive Engineers need not be troubled for, and which I can myself superintend. These consist principally of temporary constructions and repairs of erection required or used for Government purposes, keeping roads and drains, fences, wells, &c., in order, and such like. You instance having observed 14 men engaged in removing a stump. Had enquiry been made of me, I could have informed you this removal was necessary for the preparation of a site for the erection thereon of cemetery watchman's hut applied for by the late Chaplain, and ordered by Colonel Phayre, C B, when he was here last year, and which I had not been able to attend to till now, and which the present Chaplain has applied for the completion of before the arrival of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta on a visit here. Endeavors were made to cut off the stump brood level, but it being of a very hard description of wood, and four or five good chisels having been broken in the attempt, I considered it best to have it dug out in the jungle. I do this kind of work by fire, but I cannot risk such a thing on Ross Island.

The two toledars you observed were one superintending the construction of jungle wood gates for the cemetery, the old ones having fallen to pieces, the other official was the division gangsman, whose duty it is to go about inspecting all his working parties.

8. *The paper manufacturing.*—If the men are charged at Rs. 20 a month, it would of course be a loss; but if valued at four annas a day, like all other laborers, would be a benefit to the Settlement. It uses all our refuse, and, in other respects, costs nothing. The expense to Government for stationery must be very great, and I started this manufactory, hoping to reduce it.

9. The oil manufacturing was simply an experiment. I am about submitting samples of oil made from Coco Island nuts. I am of opinion that a great saving could be effected to Government if the oil for all the light-houses to the east of the Bay of Bengal was made here from the nut on those Islands; the Islands have since been given away on a grant, and I have no more nuts, so that work is finished.

10. The paper pulping and oil crushing being very hard labor, I made use of these manufactories as punishment for refractory convicts. If the Chief Commissioner desires the paper manufactory to be stopped, it shall be done.

11. I will endeavor to reduce the number of painters. These men are mostly, I may mention, weakly and unfit for hard labor.

12. Endeavors will be made to reduce the number of servants allowed to Officers. Captain Fraser, who has twelve, it should be remembered, is a married man with two children and a nurse; and I think for all household requirements the number is not excessive. Mr. Green will probably not take six, now that he will have to pay Rs. 10 a month for each. I do not think the number in the Officers' Mess is excessive, considering that there are so many as 21 officers, members of the mess of which five subaltern (medical) officers, are dining members. It would be impossible for these young officers, for whom this mess was mainly established, to keep up more free servants here than the mess maintains, for the wages that such free servants demand are very high Captain Surplice is a married man, with a child. I will ask him if he can do with less than eight servants.

13. I do not think that I could limit myself all the year round to 50 men per day for ordinary Settlement works on Ross Island; but if the average, all the year round be taken, I dare say I shall not find at the expiry of 12 months, that with the arrangements that I will introduce, the number will exceed that average

14. Services of Commissariat coolies and Marine-men shall be taken advantage of as you propose.

15. With regard to your considering it unadvisable that so many men of the Marine Department should sleep on Ross Island, where they might combine, in your opinion, to seize a boat or overpower and carry off a schooner or ship, I may mention that I do not consider that these men are more likely to attempt such a thing than any other convicts, as every Marine convicts on Ross Island being in barracks, are as far off from the boats as are the other prisoners. You enquire if some of them could not live on South Point. Undoubtedly some of them could be there accommodated, but boats would have to be attached for their conveyance to and from their labor, which would be a temptation to them or any other South Point convict to attempt escape. At present there are no boats at South Point.

16. I will convey your suggestion to the Commissariat Officer that the Overseer of the Commissariat store should reside near his charge.

17. I will convey to the Executive Engineer an extract from your letter on the subject of the size of the compounds of the clerks' quarters, and obtain an expression of his views on the subject.

18. Several of the European and Eurasian prisoners are employed at out-stations. I herewith attach a list of those so employed, also of all employed on Ross Island, shewing their occupation.

19. Regarding the existing practice of keeping new arrivals on Ross Island for from three to six months as urged by the late Dr. Morton, I think with you that some modification might be introduced in this matter. Dr. Morton, however, having always urged it so strongly, I felt it my duty, in deference to his well known long medical experience, to give him my cordial support in the matter; though I have often thought that convicts arriving here in a good state of health, and in fine weather might, after a month or so's residence on Ross Island, be sent to out-stations; but I do not see why they, more particularly those robust in appearance, should not be sent to recognized healthy localities at once. I shall make it my duty to consult the present Senior Medical Officer on this subject, and shall hereafter convey his opinion to you on this matter. Such an arrangement would not only enable me to reduce the number of prisoners on Ross Island with very great advantage to Government, for skilled workmen could then be retained for the completion of important works in progress; for it is disheartening to the Executive Engineer, the Commissariat, the Medical Officer and others to remove from their Departments men who have been trained to particular trades or duties, and who have proved themselves valuable in such employment, and to replace them with untrained laborers, yet, if the present rule is to go on, by degrees all the former will have to be removed.

20. The demand for labor on Ross Island in the Public Works Department will probably be heavy for the next 18 or 20 months; after that time the number of convicts on Ross Island might be largely reduced, indeed, only leaving thereon such few men as are required for boats, conservancy, parrawallas, servants, shopkeepers, &c., and this Island would be placed, as I have always stated it should be, in a position beyond any surprise or risk to the safety of head quarters.

List of European and Eurasian Prisoners on the various Stations of the Settlement, and their Employment.

No.	Names.	Station on which they are employed.	Nature of Employment.	Remarks
1	E. A. D'Cruz ..	Ross Island ...	Clerk, Superintendent's Office ...	Licensed.
2	T Nolan	Ditto ...	Overseer, P W D. ...	Ditto.
3	J Bluett ...	Ditto ..	Clerk, Superintendent's Office ...	Ditto.
4	C. Ross ..	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
5	M. Murphy ..	Ditto ...	Overseer, P. W. D ...	Ditto.
6	M Arratoon ...	Ditto	In charge, 10th Division.	
7	J. Mitchell ..	Ditto ...	Clerk, Assistant Supdt.'s Court.	
8	J. Lampord ...	Ditto .	Glazier.	
9	C. Burgess ...	Ditto ...	Painter.	
10	L S. Newbond ...	Ditto ...	Printer, Superintendent's Press.	
11	J. David ..	Ditto ..	Book-binder, Superintendent's Office	
12	J. Lefever ...	Ditto ...	Assistant to Master, "Diana."	
13	J. Alkana ...	Ditto ..	Harbor Master's Department.	
14	D. George ...	Ditto ...	School Master.	
15	B. Falgado ...	Ditto ...	Making Convict Beddings.	
16	P. Rodrigues ...	Ditto ..	Ditto.	
17	G. Scott ..	Aberdeen ...	Station Overseer ...	Licensed.
18	J. Freeman ...	Ditto ..	Overseer, P. W D. ...	Ditto
19	— Sutton ..	Ditto ...	Assistant Station Overseer, South Point.	
20	W. Johnson ...	Ditto ..	Cotton Cultivation Superintendent.	
21	J Murray ..	Ditto ...	P. W. D. Brick Manufactory.	
22	W. Douglas ...	Haddo ...	Overseer, P. W. Department ...	Licensed.
23	J. Winter ..	Ditto ...	Assistant ditto.	
24	J. Mitchell ..	Chatham ...	Clerk, Superintendent of Police.	
25	C Alexander ...	Ditto ...	Asst. Engineers Saw Mill, P. W. D.	
26	W. Hawkins ..	Viper ...	Station Overseer ...	Licensed.
27	W. Ham ...	Ditto ...	Assistant ditto.	
28	R D'Silva ...	Ditto ...	Under Punishment ...	Labor.
29	W. Fernandez ...	Mount Harriet...	Station Overseer.	
30	E Morton ..	Ditto ..	Superintendent, Settlement Works.	
31	R. Doris ..	Perseverance Point	Station Overseer.	
32	J V. Buckly ...	Hope Town ...	Medical Department.	
33	A. B. Lord ..	Navy Point ..	Assistant to Station Overseer.	
34	H. St. Gregory ..	Port Mouat ...	Settlement Fisherman.	

(Sd.) B. FORD, Lieut.-Colonel,
Superintendent, Port Blair.

No. 404, dated 27th April, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to acknowledge your No. 38, of this day's date, returning the corrected disposition rolls of convicts for 17th instant. To be of any use these rolls, prepared as they mostly are through convict agency, should be thoroughly checked in your Office. Judging from the incorrectness of the distribution roll received from your Office, this check does not appear to exist, therefore I consider it is desirable to have a census taken of the entire male prison population of the Settlement, and as next Wednesday is the usual muster-day, it will be a good opportunity to have it done thoroughly. I request therefore you will issue the necessary instructions for having the following programme faithfully carried out.

1st.—The Company of Native Infantry at Viper, and Company of Sappers at Ross, and the Police Guards everywhere to be under arms from 5½ A. M. of the 1st proximo, until the muster of convicts at their respective stations is completed, so that there may be no chance of the free men mingling with the prisoners.

Ross.—At Ross, where the number of prisoners is so great, it will be necessary to commence the muster early, say at 5½ A. M. It will be also necessary to have several Officers to assist in taking the muster. I propose the whole male prison population, including self-supporters, marine service, native shop-keepers, in fact every single native prisoner (male) of whatever denomination, except those in hospital, be assembled and divided into sections or divisions, in accordance with the strength now shown daily in the reports for each division; the daily report of the preceding day (Tuesday) should be handed to the mustering Officer to serve as a check on the number that should be present. For the duty of mustering on Ross Island, I propose the services of Dr. Cowie, who will make all necessary arrangements in consultation with you, for carrying out the muster. Apothecary Norman will take the muster of all sick and hospital servants. Lieutenant Laughton, the muster of the free sailors, free Commissariat followers and all free artizans on Ross Island. The services of Lieutenant Cumming, Assistant Surgeon Kelly, the Officer Commanding the

Sappers, and probably Apothecary Perry, should be placed at the disposal of Dr. Cowie to assist in taking the muster.

Aberdeen.—At Aberdeen should be assembled all the population from "Phayre ville," "South Point," and also every prisoner, cultivator, or self supporter, as well as any free servants that may be there. The free servants to be kept separate ; this must be taken at 7 o'clock A. M, by Mr. Pope, Assistant Engineer at Viper Island.

Chatham.—A muster of the population on "Chatham" to be taken by Assistant Surgeon Gamack, at 7 A. M.

Haddo.—All the population from "Navy Bay," and round "Haddo," to be assembled at "Haddo." This muster to be taken by Captain Lowndes, at 7 A. M.

Viper.—A muster of the population on Viper, to be taken at 7 A. M., by the Officer Commanding the Company of Native Infantry there, assisted by the Apothecary who could muster the sick and Hospital attendants.

Port Mouat.—For all the Port Mouat Stations, the muster should be taken by Captain Fraser at Tytler's Ghaut not later than 8 A. M.

Mount Harriet.—To be taken at 7 A. M All the male population from "Perseverance Point" and "Command Point" to be assembled at Hope Town. For the Mount Harriet and Hope Town muster, I would propose Mr. Hanley, (Superintendent of the Chief Commissioner's Office) and Mr. Hall, Senior Clerk of the Chief Commissioner's Office, unless you can name some Officers for the duty.

From this muster not one male prisoner should be excused on any pretence whatever. If in any special case, such as sudden sickness preventing a man either coming to muster or to Hospital, it will be the duty of the overseer or gangsman, to point out his whereabout, and the parade should not be dismissed, until the mustering Officer is satisfied of his existence, and that he has not been previously wanted. As there are some particulars which will afford useful information, if taken at this muster, I shall have the honor to forward a form which each mustering Officer will be required to fill in. I wish to know if you have any objections or alterations to suggest to the above proposals. If you do not consider it necessary for Lieut Laughton to take a muster of the free private servants at Ross, it would be well if they were kept at home during the hours of muster, as the bazars, &c., will be unprotected.

No. 48, dated 29th April, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 404, of 27th instant, acknowledging the receipt of the corrected population roll for 17th instant.

2. In your para. 2 you remark that the morning reports, being mostly prepared through convict agency, should be thoroughly checked in my Office ; with reference to which I beg to state that I have devolved this duty on the Assistant Superintendent of Port Blair, whose business it is daily to check these rolls in his Office, and he has the advantage of a counter-check by a reference to the monthly muster rolls and pay bills, which are received, examined, checked and audited in my Office. In your letter under acknowledgment, you consider it advisable to have a census taken of the entire male population of the Settlement, and you request that I will issue the necessary instructions for having the programme faithfully carried out.

3 I beg to inform you, that the necessary orders have been given to all who are concerned or responsible for the carrying out of the proposed census, and in the manner recommended by you.

4. I anticipate perhaps some difficulty in assembling the free Chinese artizans, but instructions have been issued, that will, I think, ensure their attendance.

5. In reply to your enquiry whether I have any objection or alterations to suggest to your proposals, I beg to state that I have none, except to mention that, besides the Settlement Officers who you have suggested should be employed on the duty of taking the census, that there is still an Officer available for such employment, Mr. C. Darwood, the Harbour Master, upon whom I would suggest should devolve the duty of taking the census of the population at "Hope Town," and such individuals as are living adjacent thereto, and I would recommend that Mr. Hall take the census of "Navy Bay" apart from "Haddo."

6. With regard to free private servants, I think it would cause much inconvenience to many free residents, especially those who have families, if their servants were required to attend the muster, and would therefore recommend that, if it be desired to ascertain the number of free private servants on the Settlement, their employers be called on to send in a list of them.

No. 415, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge your No. 48 of this day's date, and to state that Mr Darwood can take the census of Hope Town, and Mr. Hall, Navy Bay.

There will be no necessity to have a census of the free private servants, if a list is procured, and their masters keep them from mingling with the prisoners during muster hours.

The undersigned requests the nominal rolls of the prisoners be prepared legibly on foolscap, with three or four columns ruled opposite, for the purpose of filling in information regarding which he is in communication with the Sanitary Committee.

No. 49, dated 29th April, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

With reference to my letter No. 48 of this day's date, I have the honor to request you will be good enough to issue instructions to Mr. Hall, to muster the convicts, and other free residents at Navy Point, for the purpose of taking a census of the population of that station, on the morning of the 1st proximo at 7 o'clock.

No. 430, dated 30th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request that full information may be afforded to-morrow, at the census to be taken of the male population of this Settlement on the subject of caste.

2. The undersigned requests that each and every prisoner may be ordered to produce the three suits of clothing he received during the past year, in whatever state they may be in.

No. 60, dated 30th April, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Memo. No. 430 of this day's date, from the Chief Commissioner's Office, and in reply to para. 1, begs to state that the information as regards *caste* can *only* be supplied in his Office, and obtained from the warrants of the convicts; it is suggested that the muster-rolls may be forwarded to this Office for that purpose.

2. As regards para. 2, the undersigned begs to intimate that instructions have been issued to require every prisoner to produce the three suits of clothes that he has received during the past year, or whatever he may have remaining thereof.

No. 432, dated 30th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge receipt of your Nos. 56, 60, and 61, on the subject of taking a census of the Port Blair Settlement.

The muster-rolls will be sent to you after the undersigned has inspected them, to have the castes filled.

The undersigned understands the following is to be the programme :—

For Ross	DR. COWIE. DR. KELLY. LIEUT. LAUGHTON. LIEUT. CUMMING. CAPT. DEKAYNE.
Under the direction of Dr. Cowie ...	Apothecary NORMAN, to muster sick. " PERRY, " "
Hope Town	MR. HANLEY.
Port Mouat	CAPT FRASER.
Mount Harriet	MR. DARWOOD.
Aberdeen and South Point	MR. POPE.
Navy Bay	MR. HALL.
Chatham	DR. GAMACK.
Haddo	CAPT. LOWNDES.
Viper	CAPT. RANDALL. The Apothecary stationed there.

Your Office establishment will be mustered separately by Dr. Cowie. Mr. Hanley states he is not able to ascend "Mount Harriet," without great difficulty, so Mr. Darwood had better go.

No. 127, dated 30th April, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Harbour Master, Port Blair.

As suggested by the Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, Mr Hanley, the Superintendent of his Office, will assist you in taking the census at Hope Town to-morrow morning.

2. You will be good enough to convey Mr. Hanley in your boat with you, also Mr. Hall, of the Secretary's Office, who, I request you will send on to Navy Point.

3. As it is anticipated that his muster will not take up so much time as that at "Hope Town," he will probably be able to pick you up at Hope Town, on his return from Navy Point by the time that you have completed your duty.

4. Be so good as to intimate to Mr. Hanley your proposed hour of departure.

No. 61, dated 30th April, 1867.

Endorsed by—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, for his information.

No. 437, dated 30th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to forward copy of a Circular Order to each mustering Officer, on the subject of taking the census of the several stations at the Settlement, for your information.

No. 35, dated 28th April, 1867.

From—CAPTAIN H. F. DEKAYNE, *Commanding Troops, Port Blair,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 10, of yesterday's date, accompanied by the copy of a letter from Major H. N. Davies, to your address No. 404, of above date.

2. In reply I beg to state that, as requested by you, I shall be glad to render you any assistance in taking the census for Ross Island, on Wednesday, the 1st proximo, at the hour named.

3. The Detachment Sappers and Miners shall, as requested, be under arms at 5½ A. M., and remain so, until the muster of the convicts on Ross Island be effected.

4. The services of Lieutenant Randall, Commanding Detachment 25th Regiment N. I, Viper Island, are placed at the disposal of Major H. N. Davies, as requested for the purpose required, *vide* extract from Station Orders attached.

5. Lieutenant Randall will be instructed to keep the Detachment 25th Regiment, stationed at Viper, under arms during the taking of the muster.

No. 52, dated 28th April, 1867.

Memo. by—LIEUT. COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

Copy forwarded to Major H. N. Davies, Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, for information.

No. 414, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Senior Medical Officer, and President, Sanitary Committee, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to state, that as a muster is about to be held, he begs to enquire what information regarding prisoners which can be rapidly collected would be useful.

No. 56, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo. from LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

Four copies of printed Circulars on the subject of the General Parade to be held on the 1st proximo, forwarded to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, for information.

Dated 29th April, 1867.

Circular Order to all Overseers.

On the occasion of the taking of a census of the male population on the 1st proximo, you are desired to have with you at the muster parade, to hand over to the mustering Officer, the daily report of your divisions of the preceding day, (Tuesday), and your monthly muster roll, duly completed and signed.

The convicts are to fall in the order of the muster roll, so as to answer their names without confusion or delay.

(Sd.) B. FORD, LIEUT.-COLONEL,
Superintendent, Port Blair.

Dated 29th April, 1867.

NOTICE.

Overseers of Divisions are instructed that for this month, their muster rolls for the 1st May, must be made out in *duplicate*. One copy is to be given to the mustering Officer at the time of taking the census, and the other to be subsequently forwarded to this Office as usual with the pay abstract.

The muster roll given to the Officer is to have 4 spare columns ruled in it, for information to be *afterwards* filled up therein.

(Sd.) B. FORD, LIEUT.-COLONEL,
Superintendent, Port Blair.

Dated 29th April, 1867.

NOTICE.

To all Free Residents of Ross Island.

A census of the male population of this Settlement having been called for by the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, you are requested to be present at the Commissariat Yard, Ross Island, at 5-15 A. M. of the 1st proximo, where an Officer will attend for the purpose of taking a muster.

(Sd.) B. FORD, LIEUT.-COLONEL,
Superintendent, Port Blair.

Dated 29th April, 1867.

NOTICE.

To all free Residents in the Settlement of Port Blair.

On the occasion of the taking of a census of the male population of this Settlement, on the morning of the 1st proximo, the attendance of all native convicts is required at the ordered parade, and you are, therefore, requested to send all convict servants officially or privately employed by you.

All *free* private servants should be *kept at home* during the hours of muster, as the bazars, &c., will be unprotected.

(Sd.) B. FORD, LIEUT.-COLONEL,
Superintendent, Port Blair.

No. 65, dated 30th April, 1867.

Memo from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to state, in reply to your Memo. No. 432 of the 30th April 1867, that the arrangements have been made according to the programme as understood by Major Davies.

There will be no necessity for Mr. Hanley to ascend "Mount Harriet," as the Division at "Mount Harriet" has been ordered to parade at Hope Town.

No. 12, dated 27th April, 1867.

From—DR. A. J. COWIE, *Senior Medical Officer, and President, Sanitary Committee, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter No. 394, dated 26th April, 1867, requesting the opinion of my Committee as to whether the station of Port Mouat should be continued to be occupied, and also, in the case of the Committee agreeing with the recommendations conveyed in your letter generally, it would not be advisable to order round to this station at once the hulk "Erin-go-bragh," I am requested to state in reply that the Committee entirely concur with your view on the subject.

No. 435, dated 30th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Senior Medical Officer, and President, Sanitary Committee, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, in continuation of his letter No. 394 of 26th instant, to forward further information as therein alluded to, on the subject of the Settlement of "Port Mouat" in original (to be returned) received from Colonel Ford, from paras. 2 and 7, the

Committee will observe, taking the lowest calculation of 2 annas a day, it appears only 16 men were daily employed at "Port Mouat." Does this agree with the Medical returns before your Committee. It may be added, if the real cost of each prisoner be calculated, the true estimate of the expenditure will be much enhanced beyond Colonel Ford's estimation.

Read Memo. from Colonel Fytche to Major Davies.

In approaching a question of this sort, it is essential a clear idea of the object of an enquiry be stated.

It is fair to assume in the present case that the intentions of Government in occupying the Andamans were—

1st.—The instituting a system of penal servitude.

2nd.—The exacting from the transported convicts reproductive labor.

3rd.—The reclaiming the Islands from jungle to fertility.

Our aim should, therefore, be to ascertain in what respects these objects have been realized, and in what they appear to fail.

The results should manifest themselves in the care with which the prisoners are worked, and an honest day's labor exacted from them; in the quantity of land cleared or made culturable; in the number of public buildings erected, or works of utility in progress; in the healthy condition of the convicts, and a general air of industry, comfort, and thriftiness should be apparent.

Para. 2. *A.*—What is required here is the number of convicts drawing ration allowance at annas 3-0, 2-6, and 2-0 per diem.

Para. 2. *B*—What is required here is a clear account of the items required to make up the estimated sum of Rs. 38,000.

Para. 2. *C.*—The object is to ascertain what items are for convicts, and what for Military or other Departments.

Para. 2. *D.*—This can only be done when the system in force is understood.

Para. 2. *E.*—Colonel Ford should be required to furnish one suit of every description of clothing, uniform, or dress in use among the convicts. He should state the cost of each, where the materials are procured from; the original cost price; the bills should be produced; the freight should be taken into account; the cost of making up; the length of time the cloths are estimated to last; the description of work the convicts have to perform; the climate they have to work in;—all should be taken into consideration, and a comparison drawn with the prison clothing of Rangoon and Moulmein. Some of the prisoners are clothed with serge; now this description of cloth is surely better in the dry weather, and retains the wet longest in the rainy season.

I believe there is a band with uniform; a sample should be sent.

Para. 3.—Can only be gone into with the bills in hand

Para. 4—Colonel Ford should be required to shew what work these schooners have done during 1866, and their cost. A form should be given him to fill in, shewing date of each arrival and what they brought; also date of departure, duration of passage, and detention in other ports.

Para. 5—The first thing to be ascertained is, whether the convicts can convert their copper coins into silver coins, directly or indirectly through traders. If they can, the entire utility of the institution of these coins fails.

The question would then be how convicts could be prevented accumulating silver coins. Where both silver coin and copper tokens are current, I think it would be almost hopeless to prevent convicts obtaining silver; but the point can be discussed.

The question should be asked to Colonel Ford and each head of Department, whether they could do with only tokens and no silver.

As regards convicts' diet, the remedy seems to point to issuing rations, and having messes, and not making any money allowance for food. Perhaps a small allowance in tokens might be made monthly to enable the convicts to purchase extras, such as vegetables, tobacco, and so forth. Articles which would conduce to their health and happiness, or, the allowance may be allowed to accumulate in the Treasury for remission to their families, or given as a bonus to short-termed convicts when released, or to long-termed convicts when they obtain a ticket of leave and become self-supporters. In view of ascertaining what the cost of convict keep might be reduced to, a Committee should lay down a scale of diet for the several descriptions of convicts,—healthy, convalescent, sick, and so on, and the Commissariat Officer should calculate the cost per 100.

The system here requires to be understood, before it can be discussed.

This point requires explanation; let Colonel Ford shew the reasons.

Let Colonel Ford show why half these rates will not suffice.

The first point to be ascertained is what does a convict ration really cost Government at Port Blair; and then at what rate is it sold to the shop-keepers; and third at what rate do they retail it to the convicts. It seems to me the cost of the convict is raised by the present process; and, then, to meet the high rate, Government have to make a higher allowance to the convicts than if the Commissariat served out the rations direct to the prisoners.

Here again, the advantage of messing becomes apparent.

Para. 10.—The question appears to be, whether allowing convicts free freight is cheaper than procuring supplies through the Commissariat, and then issuing them to the shop-keepers;

all depends on whether the cost of freight is added to the rate at which the articles are sold to the convicts from the Commissariat.

Para. 11.—Colonel Ford should state why this scale has been laid down, and why he and other Government servants should not pay full cost price. These indirect ways of eking out salaries are very dubious and objectionable.

Para. 12.—The Doctor had better consider in communication with the Commissariat Officer.

Para. 13.—The registers must be procured.

Para. 14.—This subject requires very clear enquiry. The mortality in some measure explains the deficiency of animal food recently noticed by Government.

Para. 16—The Accountant General's clerk might be set to work to frame an estimate for 1867-68 with Colonel Ford's clerk.

Para. 17.—This should be peremptorily ordered.

Para. 18.—The Committee has received orders on this subject.

Colonel Ford's letter No. 159 of 24th October 1865 states the new vessel should do the towing. How much of this sort of work has the "Kwangtung" done? and what is the cost of getting up steam?

Para. 19.—Observation and enquiry can alone guide in this matter.

Para. 20—Observation and enquiry can alone guide in this matter. No doubt petty appointments lead to all sorts of corruption and jobbery.

Para. 21. Ditto.

Para. 22. Ditto.

Para. 23—The Executive Engineer should report on this.

Para. 24.—What is the Forest Officer about?

Para. 25—Do the convict shop-keepers pay cash for stores supplied?

Para. 26.—Ask Colonel Ford what arrangement he could propose to relieve him of the responsibility? whether he would prefer an Officer on the spot, or at Rangoon? and the reason.

Para. 27.—Ask Lieutenant Laughton.

Para. 28—Ask Colonel Ford.

Para. 29.—Ask Colonel Ford for the proceedings of any Court of Enquiry held on the matter.

Para. 30.—It is understood that all convicts or ticket-of-leave men or self-supporters or whatever they are called, pay one rupee per month to a Local Fund, and there are also collections from fines, &c. Now Colonel Ford's local funds for 1866 only shew ferries. Colonel Ford should produce the rolls of punishment, and the fines.

Para. 31.—This requires sharp looking into.

Para. 32.—For enquiry.

Para. 33.—Perhaps the Public Works Officer could point out how convict labor should be economized.

Para. 34.—This will require a special memorandum after perusing the correspondence, but it may be stated generally that bearing in mind, the three propositions with which we started—

Penal Servitude,
Productive Labor, and
Reclaiming the Andamans,

the most rational scheme would appear to be to work from a common basis, and clear and occupy as means of advance become opened out. If there be culturable ground nearer the Settlement than Port Mouat, then a mistake has been made, unless it can be shewn that port has overwhelming advantages. A return of attacks by savages in this direction will be useful.

Para. 36.—I have the first six months' account from the Calcutta Commissariat. Colonel Ford should produce a statement of every article he procured from Calcutta in 1866; the cost of these should be compared with Rangoon rates, remembering the freight from Calcutta is double what it is from Rangoon. The convict supplies should be distinguished separate.

Read letter No. 2637 from the Home Secretary.

In this letter Government, in reply to Colonel Phayre's letters Nos. 469 M., dated 24th September 1866, and 37 M., dated 30th January 1867, Colonel Phayre did not appear to have thought it expedient upon the authority given to him by Government in letter of the 29th May last, to suspend all arrangements for the occupation of Port Mouat, and urges the advisability of the Chief Commissioner visiting the Settlement in person, or if unable to do so, to depute an Officer on whose judgment he could rely in order to assure himself of the desirability or otherwise of withdrawing the convicts therefrom either permanently, or if not permanently, at least during the monsoon, requests information be obtained from Colonel Ford as to whether during the last monsoon the convicts to Port Mouat were or were not exposed in any unusual degree to the inclemency of the weather, and directs careful examination be made on the question of expenditure, giving due consideration to the outlay which has already been incurred, that is, if there should be any material loss to the State occasioned by the withdrawal of convicts from Port Mouat; and if it will not be necessary to provide accommodation for them elsewhere at a fresh outlay of money, if it should seem that the retention of the Settlement will necessitate a large outlay of money.

No. 529, dated 7th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will consider and report whether convict Police and all parrawallahs cannot be dispensed with. The former are an anomaly, they are picked men, and fatten on idleness; and the latter useless for any purpose that I have been able to discover; they are the very reverse to the convict Police, although supposed to do analogous duties, that is, guard prisoners in some shape at night. I cannot understand why gangsmen are allowed convict servants. No free Government peon in the service of the jail at Rangoon keeps paid servants. I know, it may be said, a gangsman has no one to cook his meals; to that I say leave him alone, it will be found he will not starve. I want to know whether European prisoners are allowed more than one servant with or without payment; if more than one, please report the necessity for the indulgence.

If you consider it necessary that the European prisoners should live on Ross Island, and reside in their present barrack, please report why one cook, one bheestie, and one coolie, for sweeping and general work would not suffice for all. These European prisoners positively appear to enjoy more luxuries here than I did during the whole ten years I was an Ensign. Why should not these European prisoners be formed into a mess, and receive rations as European soldiers, which cost ordinarily Rs. 6-5-4 a month! It is presumed they have no caste prejudices; and as for clothing, it does not appear clear why they should not have a distinctive dress while in durance. This appears to me to be one of the essential points of penal discipline. As things stand at present, felons, both European and Native, appear in public places of resort, positively in better clothes, superior in cut and style, than many an honest free man can afford to wear. Is this right?

No. 135, dated 10th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL, B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 529 of the 7th instant, requesting me to consider and report whether convict Police and all parrawallahs cannot be dispensed with.

2. With regard to the former, I beg leave to state that I have found these a very useful body of men, being mostly old sepoys. They have undertaken the various duties that have devolved upon them in a way that has generally afforded me satisfaction. The following shows their present distribution :—

Ross Island	36	Commissariat Yard Sentries	17
		Mess-house	2
		South Point Ross Island	2
		Superintendent's Orderly	1
		With a jungle wood cutting party ...	3
		On board the "Merchantman" and "Mandalay"	8
		Havildars	2
		Naik	1
			—36
Aberdeen	20	Beach Sentries	4
		Commissariat Cattle Sheds	8
		South Point	2
		Phœnix Bay	4
		Havildar	1
		Naik	1
			—20
Haddo	7	Beach Sentries	6
		Havildar	1
			— 7
Perseverance Point	12	Beach Sentries	6
		Commissariat Cattle Sheds	5
		Havildar	1
			—12
Port Mouat	7	Sentries	6
		Havildar	1
			— 7
Hope Town	4	Beach Sentries	4
			— 4
Viper Island	4	Beach Sentries	4
			— 4
Navy Point	4	Beach Sentries	4
			— 4
Total ...	94 men.		94

3. As regards parawallahs, these men are, as a rule, selected for the charge of barracks, when the convicts are absent at labor from the feeble, the aged, and the invalid gang. If I have not parrawallahs at the barracks at such a time, there will be constant thefts. It is the duty of these parrawallahs also to observe all convicts who leave the barracks for the purposes of nature at night. Were the convicts not watched, escapes would become rife. It must be borne in mind that there are no guards or sentries either of troops or of free Police immediately over the barracks. Besides the above duties, the following also devolve upon parrawallahs:—watching Government stores, tools, cattle, and sheep; property at ghauts, public buildings, hospitals, bazaars, and gardens; brick and lime kilns and soorkee-sheds on board store ships; to prevent theft, and over convict working parties; watching the beach on discharge of cargo, and boats, as well as escorting cargo therein; lighting and trimming barracks, and latrine lights watching tanks and wells, and the beach or roads to prevent persons committing nuisance, &c.

4. With regard to your enquiry as to what gangsmen are allowed convicts as servants, I beg to state that no gangsmen save *Division* gangsmen, *i. e.*, superintendent of 420 convicts are allowed to hire a convict servant, and I consider it much the least of two evils to make the gangsmen pay for one, than to discover him making half a dozen work for him on the sly, as I used to find them doing when I first came to the Settlement.

5. You wish to know whether European prisoners are allowed more than one servant with or without payment; and if more than one, you request me to report as to the necessity of the employment. With reference to the above, I beg to inform you that European prisoners are allowed only one convict servant, and the servant has to be paid for. There is one European licensed prisoner, J. Bluett, who has two convict servants, he having a wife and family with him. This man's time is about expiring.

6. As regards messing the European prisoners, there could be no objection to such an arrangement for the ordinary Christian convicts (European and Eurasian), and I have no doubt that one cook, one bheestie, and one coolie would suffice for a mess for those whose employments are on Ross Island.

7. European prisoners, however, who have licenses to be at large, should, I think, be allowed to make their arrangements for their meals As regards clothing for this class of prisoners, I also think the indulgence should be continued to them, so long as they behaved well, of being allowed to wear their own clothes.

8. As regards ordinary Christian convicts (Europeans or Eurasians) there could be no objection to their being made to wear a distinctive dress whilst in durance I found on arrival at this Settlement that it had hitherto always been the rule to allow all Christian prisoners, whether licensed or ordinary, to wear their own clothes, and I, therefore, made no altorations.

No. 538, dated 8th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that Government are desirous of knowing how the convicts were housed when they first went to Port Mouat. Please state first whether they slept on board the hulk "Erin-go-bragh" regularly until temporary houses were erected for them on shore. Dr. Pritchard stated in one of his letters to Colonel Phayre, when writing of the prisoners, that they worked in the heavy rains, and away from the hulk. You are now, in the second place, requested to state whether during last monsoon the convicts at Port Mouat were or were not exposed in any unusual degree to the inclemency of the weather.

No. 176, dated 15th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 538 of the 8th instant, enquiring, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, how the convicts were housed when they first went to Port Mouat; and in reply beg to state that the convicts were kept as a body on board the hulk "Erin-go-bragh," until temporary houses were erected for them on shore.

As Dr. Pritchard has reported, the men certainly were landed every day for labor on shore, and no doubt they may have there worked in *some* rain, but I can positively state they were not in any unusual degree exposed to the inclemency of the weather. Indeed, Mr. Homfray had my orders not to land the men to labor when the weather was very wet. It is an understood thing on the Settlement that the convicts are not required to work at any time in the rain, but are usually permitted to seek shelter under such circumstances

One of the first things done after the convicts had arrived at Port Mouat, was to erect some sheds near where the convicts were at work, and I feel sure that they always had shelter there when the weather was inclement.

No. 359, dated 24th April, 1867

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will favor me with an estimate of the entire expenditure incurred at Port Mouat, by which I include adjacent Settlements from the date of its formation up to the present time.

2. Your statement should show the area of ground partially cleared, and the quantity actually under cultivation at that station, and the number of convicts employed on the work since the place was founded

3. Under the head of Marine Service, you will be good enough to enumerate what actual money has accrued to Government by the employment of the "Erin-go-bragh," and the various boats and lighters now at Port Blair, specifying the class of vessels which have from time to time been sent round there by you, noting the expense of steamers.

4. In addition to the cost of keeping up the communication by sea, there has been, I should imagine, considerable traffic by boat from Ross Island to Homfray's Creek. You will be good enough to specify what was the cost of keeping up communication in this direction.

5. All the foregoing expenditure, I presume, may be considered as exclusively debitable to Port Mouat.

6. As regards the Police establishment at Port Mouat, Government has ruled that that station should not be specially debited with this charge, on the principle that convicts must be guarded anywhere, and guarding them at Port Mouat has not been shewn to cause any extra expenditure to the State, although, probably, from keeping up communication for supplies, this has been a matter of expense, yet this need not be noticed as regards the Police, as it will be included in the information called for in paras. 3 and 4 above.

7. An estimate will be required of the value of convict labor employed at Port Mouat exclusive of that called for in para. 2, and an item shewing the loss on wear and tear of tools and other materials; as, in the event of abandoning that place, it would be necessary to know the value of the work done there, and the materials sacrificed in performing it. Had the operations been carried out at a permanent station, they would probably have proved lasting and useful.

8. You will be good enough to state what has been expended in the payment of any extra establishment, such as Mr. Homfray's salary, also for Overseer, Apothecary, &c, as these officers were appointed solely for the Port Mouat scheme; also, the cost of keeping up land carriage between Homfray's Creek and Tytler's Ghat across the isthmus, and all ponies, cattle, elephants, carts, &c., should be noted.

9. The value of all temporary and permanent buildings already erected there, belonging to Port Mouat station, must be shown; and in this estimate, erections on account of Police must be mentioned, as in case of the station being abandoned, they will be lost.

10. Such property, however, as can be brought away should be shewn separately (deducting a loss as a credit against the total expenditure on account of the station of 10 per cent. for deterioration in removal.) This, as far as I can see, would only have reference to the angle-iron barracks, as the temporary buildings would scarcely be worth removing, though, on this point, I request your opinion.

11. In the event of the station being maintained, what would be the expenditure caused by conveying to, and keeping up supplies &c., at Port Mouat, than at the stations adjacent to Ross Island, where the prisoners could be removed to. For instance, boats would be required between Ross Island and Homfray's Creek, and also between Tytler's Ghat and Mount Augusta.

12. What arrangements could be made for having a Doctor to visit the Port Mouat station, at least once a week during the monsoon.

13. I request you will do me the favor of expediting the reply to this letter. I am not desirous of having the information sought very accurate, but sufficiently so to shew roughly by comparison the extra expenditure already incurred at Port Mouat, and what will still be required there if it be kept on. As the S. W. monsoon is coming on apace, all arrangements with regard to Port Mouat being made a station should be arrived at without delay.

No. 62, dated 30th April, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 359, Port Blair, dated 24th instant, and, in accordance with the Chief Commissioner's desire, proceed to furnish

you with the information as regards "Port Mouat" on the points therein mooted as follows :—

Para. 2—The area of ground partially cleared at Port Mouat is 130 acres.

The quantity of ground actually under cultivation at Port Mouat is 50 acres.

The number of convicts employed on this work, since the formation of Port Mouat, is 9,600, which, calculated at 3rd class subsistence, or annas 2-0 each, gives Rs. 1,200.

Marine Service.

Para. 3—The following shows the actual cash outlay made upon the hulk "Erin-go-bragh" since she has been at "Port Mouat."

Repairs to roof	Rs.	4,000.
Fitting cooking-places		
Cutting extra posts for ventilation		
Fitting new side ladders and ventilation shifts... ...		
Fitting latrines and links		

The above includes free labor and material, but I would submit that this sum is not debitable as a loss against "Port Mouat"; for as the hulk was sent here as a convict receiving ship, such repairs would have been requisite and executed even had she remained at Port Blair, and never been sent to "Port Mouat," and it may be mentioned that general fittings required to be made to her interior were not completed when she left this for "Port Mouat," and others were necessary afterwards, when experience in occupying the vessel with convicts during the S. W. monsoon pointed out such to be actually necessary for health, accommodation, protection from the weather and safety.

Value of 2 boats, 3 canoes and 1 lighter supplied from Port Blair...	Rs.	1,900	0	0
1 Trip Steamer "Dalhousie" 1 day's fuel 25 tons coal ...	„	625	0	0
Her Establishment is not debitable to "Port Mouat" for this trip.				
4 Trips Steamer "Diana," 4 days fuel at 45 tons coal each ...	Rs.	500	0	0
Pay of establishment for 4 days	„	67	0	0
1 Trip Steamer "Kwang Tung," 2 days' fuel 50 tons of coal...	„	1,250	0	0
Pay of establishment for 2 days...	„	170	0	0
2 Trips Schooner "Alexandra," 15 days' pay of establishment	„	212	0	0
	Rs	2,824	0	0

Para. 4.—Pay of 15 convicts working 1 canal and 1 cutter from Ross Island to "Progress Creek," from May 1866, to April, 1867, at annas 2-6 per diem, Rs 855.

Para. 5.—The above expenditure may be considered debitable to "Port Mouat."

Para. 6.—No charge is made for Police as pointed out; the expense of keeping up communication has been shewn in para 4.

Para. 7.—The value of convict labor employed at "Port Mouat," exclusive of that shewn in para. 2, has been Rs. 18,266.

The estimated loss on wear and tear of tools and plant, and which has been calculated at 50 per cent. on their cost, is Rs. 653.

Para. 8.—The following items shew expenditure on pay of extra establishment :—

1 Assistant to Superintendent in charge from May 1866, to April 1867	Rs.	4,800	0	0
1 Overseer from July 1866 to April 1867	„	1,000	0	0
1 Apothecary from Oct 1866 to April 1867... ...	„	1,326	0	0
	Rs.	7,126	0	0

The following item is the cost of keeping up land carriage across the isthmus Rs 4,882, being cost of animals and their feed.

Para. 9.—I here give the value of all semi-permanent and temporary buildings :—

1 semi-permanent barrack	Rs.	11,000	0	0
1 temporary barrack for convicts				
Ditto Police	„	12,954	0	0
Ditto store and other sheds, huts, &c. ...				

The above comprises the total expenditure on account of "Port Mouat" as called for, *viz.*:—

Para. 2	...	...	...	Rs.	1,200	0	0
3	...	...	...	„	4,000	0	0
„	...	...	...	„	1,900	0	0
„	...	...	...	„	2,824	0	0
4	...	...	...	„	855	0	0
7	...	...	...	„	18,266	0	0
„	...	...	...	„	653	0	0
8	...	...	...	„	7,126	0	0
„	...	...	...	„	4,882	0	0
9	...	...	...	„	12,954	0	0
				Total Rs.	54,660	0	0

Para. 10.—I shew separately the value of such property as can be brought away, deducting 10 per cent. for deterioration on removal :—

Value of iron barrack...	Rs.	11,000	0	0
Deduct 10 per cent. for deterioration...	„	1,100	0	0
	Rs.	9,900	0	0

which amount, deducted from the above, gives a grand total of expenditure of Rs. 44,760. In my opinion it would not be worth while removing temporary buildings.

Para. 11.—In the event of the station being maintained, the excess expenditure caused by conveying to and keeping up supplies at "Port Mouat" above that of stations more adjacent to "Ross Island," whereto the prisoners could be removed, is estimated at Rs. 3,050 per annum, with the same strength, *viz.*, one division of convicts.

Para. 12.—Conveyance could be afforded for a medical man visiting "Port Mouat" once a week during the monsoon.

Para. 13.—The reply to this letter has been expedited as much as possible, and care has been taken to make the information now sought as accurate as time will allow.

No. 315, dated 16th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to forward herewith the original warrants from the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Foreign Department, for the custody of Prince Myeng-goon-daing, together with copies of letters Nos. 295 and 298 from the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Foreign Department, dated 28th March 1867.

With reference to para. 2 of letter No. 295, the Myeng-goon-daing Prince is to be provided with quarters for himself, wife, and wife's mother, and he is to be supported in as comfortable a manner as in your discretion you may consider advisable. He should be kept under such restraint as will ensure his safe custody.

No. 354, dated 23rd April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to state that he yesterday visited the Political Burmese prisoner, Prince Myeng-goon-daing.

The prisoner complained of having been ill with fever and cold for the past three days; the prisoner appears to think a hut with no raised floor does not agree with him; the prisoner also complained of his food. If possible, a better house should be furnished for the Prince, and he should have every thing he requires, food and personal comfort.

No. 1, dated 23rd April, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Executive Engineer, Port Blair.

I have the honor to forward enclosed copy of a despatch* from the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Foreign Department, Political, to the address of the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah; also a Memorandum marked 315 of 16th instant from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner. From these decuments you will observe that the Burmese Prince Myeng-goon-daing has been placed under my charge as a State prisoner.

* No. 295, dated 28th March 1867.

2. It is essential, the Prince being in my custody in a Penal Settlement, that he should be kept apart from the convicts, and under the care of an officer.

3. I have determined to place the Burmese Prince under the charge of the Superintendent of Police, and to locate him on Chatham Island. You will observe that my instructions require that he shall be supported in as comfortable a manner which, in my discretion, I consider advisable. The Prince is at present located in the hut recently occupied by prisoner Freeman on Chatham Island.

4. This habitation being any thing but comfortable, I offered the Prince the teak structure recently erected for the Public Works Department store-keeper on that Island, but the Prince, who has his family with him, has seen the proposed dwelling, and declined to occupy it on account of the extreme publicity of the locality on which it is situate, as well as the proximity of the house to the steam saw-mill, and a constant loud noise of the machinery. Having this day myself inspected the locality, I cannot but concede that the Prince's objections are most reasonable and entitled to consideration. It has, therefore, occurred to me, in view of my instructions to provide comfortably for him, to propose to you that the Prince should be accommodated in the quarters occupied by the Burmese supervisor Moung Mœ, and that his quarters be transferred to the store-keeper's house above referred to, where doubtless with his accustomed proximity to the saw-mill, neither he nor his family will experience anything disagreeable from the noise of the saw-mill such as the Prince anticipates.

5. I shall feel obliged by an early reply as to your acquiescence, or otherwise to my proposal.

No. 2, dated 24th April, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Executive Engineer, Port Blair.

In continuation of my letter to your address No. 1, of yesterday's date, I beg to request your perusal of the enclosed copy of a Memo. to my address, from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, mentioning that the Burmese Prince Myeng-goon-daing is sick, and seems to attribute his indisposition to the dampness of the house he at present occupies.

2. It will be necessary to provide other quarters for the Prince as soon as possible.

3. You have my application before you requesting the making over of the house at present occupied by supervisor Moung Moe for the Prince's use.

4. Should you not be able to make over this building for the Prince's accommodation, new quarters will have to be constructed for him on Chatham Island, as I have determined that he must remain there.

5. There are two suitable sites north opposite the house now occupied by the supervisor, on which quarters could be erected ; and should you decide not to make the supervisor's quarters permanently available, I request that they may be temporarily given up to the Prince as until such time, you can construct suitable accommodation for him, in which case I shall feel obliged by your submitting a plan and estimate for the same, for the consideration of the Chief Commissioner, at your earliest convenience.

No. 3, dated 24th April, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In acknowledging the receipt of your Memorandum No. 354, of yesterday's date, bringing to my notice that the Prince of Myeng-goon-daing is not well, that a better house should be provided for him, and that he should have everything he requires in that respect, as also for his personal comfort, I have the honor to inform you that I have myself visited the Prince yesterday morning, and, finding him not well, requested Dr. Gamack to afford him medical aid. The Prince is not accommodated as I should wish him to be, and I, therefore, some days ago, offered him a small teak-built house, which, however, he declined, preferring to remain where he was. But as his present quarters, (the only available dwelling on Chatham Island, where I considered it advisable for the Prince to be located in charge of the Superintendent of Police,) are so unsuitable, that I have addressed the Executive Engineer on the subject, applying to him for a house at present occupied by a Burmese supervisor under his orders, *vide* copy of my letter attached, which, doubtless in view of the arrangment I have proposed to him for the supervisor's accommodation, I hope he will be able to make over to the Prince.

2. I shall let you know the result of this communication with the Executive Engineer. Meanwhile, Captain Lowndes, who, I have charged with the care of the Prince, and to supply him with every thing he wants in food, clothes, &c., will do what he can to make him comfortable in his present quarters.

No. 42, dated 25th April, 1867.

From—Lieut. W. G. Cumming, *Executive Engineer, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters Nos. 1 and 2, dated the 23rd and 24th April, respectively, together with copies of correspondence as per margin, all with reference to the State prisoner Prince Myeng-goon-daing, and the provision of quarters for him during his stay in this Settlement.

No. 295, from Secretary, Government of India, to Chief Commissioner, B B; No. 315. From Secretary to Chief Commissioner, B. B., to Superintendent, Port Blair, No. 354, from ditto, to ditto.

2. In the 2nd and 3rd paras. of your letter No. 1, you state that you have determined to place the above-mentioned Burman State prisoner on Chatham Island, under the immediate supervision of the Superintendent of Police; and, such being the case, you are desirous of obtaining comfortable quarters for him.

3. I myself personally inspected the small store-keeper's house which I offered to you as accommodation for the Burman Prince; and, although small, it can be enlarged and made quite private by flooring out the front verandah and boarding it in. I am sorry to add that I cannot agree with your suggestion that Mr. Supervisor Moung Moe should be ordered to vacate his premises, and take up his quarters in the store-keeper's bungalow. If the Prince Myeng-goon-daing objects to the situation of the store-keeper's bungalow on account of its proximity to the saw-mill, and the noise of the machinery, the same objection must be equally true for Mr. Moung Moe's wife and family of young children.

4. From all the correspondence which you have forwarded, I gather that the Myeng-goon-daing Prince is to be comfortably housed, but not at the expense of a free Christian, who holds the responsible position of a supervisor in the Public Works Department, and whose influence and authority would be sensibly diminished were he compelled to vacate his quarters to make way for a State prisoner. I beg, therefore, you will consider my proposal mentioned in the 3rd para. in lieu of building new quarters for the Prince, as stated in your letter No. 2, and if you will agree with me, I will put the work in hand at once; and, if not, I will draw out a plan and estimate for a new bungalow for the sanction of the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah.

No. 4, dated 26th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

Copy forwarded to Major H. N. Davies, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, for his information, in continuation of his Office letter No. 3, of the 24th instant.

No. 425, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to acknowledge receipt of your docket No. 4. The undersigned visited the Myeng-goon-daing Mengtha yesterday. The undersigned thinks if the roof of his present hut was raised, and the floor boarded sufficiently high off the ground, to enable the underneath part to be swept, and *chut* put inside the roof, and the whole white-washed, it would do.

The Mengtha complains he has no mosquito curtains, he wants a more comfortable bed, and a little more furniture. In addition to his food and clothing, you might allow him Rs. 20 per month in cash, to procure any little necessaries he wants.

The monthly bills, including the cash allowances, should be forwarded by you to the Chief Commissioner for countersignature. The maximum allowed the Prince, when in Rangoon, was Rs. 200 per month, out of which he had to pay house rent.

No. 51, dated 30th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

To—Superintendent of Police, Port Blair.

The Burmese political prisoner Prince Myeng-goon-daing, having applied for certain article for his present use as per list attached, the Superintendent of Police of Port Blair is requested to provide the same, and to forward to this Office a memo. of accounts for payment.

Major Davies, on his departure, has been good enough to offer some articles of furniture for the use of the Prince. Will you be good enough to state whether the Prince desires the

services of a free or convict Burman as a servant. The undersigned thinks it very objectionable that he should have convict servants, and suggests that it would be better to send to Rangoon for a free servant for him.

Articles required for the Burmese Prince :—

3 pairs shoes.	1 salt cellar.
1 silk umbrella.	2 table cloths.
3 bed sheets.	6 half plates.
1 mosquito curtain.	6 tea cups.
1 mattress.	1 tea pot.
3 covering sheets.	1 sugar pot.
12 white Chinese coats.	2 table spoons (large),
2 pieces of Burmese cloth	2 ditto (small).
Silk handkerchiefs.	3 water pots.
6 tumblers.	2 deckchies.
6 table plates.	6 small kurryes.
6 forks.	6 tea spoons.
6 knives, (table).	1 tin sweet oil.
6 spoons.	1 bag table rice.

No. 7.

Memo. by—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

Copy forwarded to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, for the information of the Chief Commissioner

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No. 86, dated 30th April, 1867.

From—Captain T. Lowndes, *Superintendent of Police, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I went with Cumming to the young Prince last evening, and he now says he is willing to take up his abode in the store-keeper's quarters near the saw-mill, which, Cumming says, he can, with your sanction, make perfectly comfortable and private for him.

Will you please grant a passage order for the Prince's mother-in-law Matsee to Rangoon.

No. 77, dated 2nd May, 1867.

Memo. by—Lieut. Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

Copies forwarded to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, for information.

Extract from letter No. 42 of the 25th April, 1867, from the Executive Engineer, Port Blair, to the address of the Superintendent, Port Blair.

3. I myself personally inspected the store-keeper's house which I offered to you as accommodation for the Burman Prince ; and, although small, it can be enlarged, and made quite private by flooring out the front verandah and boarding it in.

I am sorry to add that I cannot agree with your suggestion that supervisor Moung Moe should be ordered to vacate his premises, and take his quarters in the store-keeper's bungalow. If the Prince Myeng-goon-daing object to the situation of the store-keeper's bungalow on account of its proximity to the saw-mill and the noise of the machinery, the same objection must be equally true for Mr. Moung Moe's wife and family of young children.

The undersigned has the honor to inform the Superintendent that the Burman Prince has already seen the store-keeper's quarters alluded to by Lieutenant Cumming, and that he strongly objects to living there, on account of the great noise of the machinery of the saw-mill.

No. E. E., dated 3rd May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Executive Engineer, Port Blair.

The Burmese political prisoner Prince Myeng-goon-daing having now stated that he is willing to take up his abode in the store-keeper's quarters next the Saw Mill, I have the

honor to request that you will be good enough to enlarge, improve, and repair that building so as to make the same private as well as convenient for the Prince's accommodation ; an extra bath-room is necessary, as the Prince has a family with him, also a small lock-up place for godowns for table supplies, &c. The cook-room I also request you will put into suitable order.

No. 93, dated 3rd May, 1867.

Memo. by LIEUT-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

Copy of the above forwarded to Major H. N. Davies, Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, for information.

No. 92, dated 3rd May, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 425 of the 29th ultimo, making certain suggestions for the comfort of the political prisoner Prince Myeng-goon-daing. It will have been apparent from copies of documents forwarded with this Office Memorandum No. 77 of yesterday's date, to the address of the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, that the Prince is now disposed to occupy the store-keeper's teak-constructed quarters on Chatham Island which he before declined.

2. Lieutenant Cumming, Executive Engineer, has been requested to put the quarters into order for the Prince, in the way that he proposed, as had already been communicated to Major Davies.

3. Notice is taken of the instructions as regards the Prince's monthly cash allowance, and that monthly bills should be forwarded from this Office to the Chief Commissioner for counter-signature.

4. The Superintendent of Police, who has been entrusted with the charge of the Prince, has been already requested to supply him with all that he requires in the way of clothes and household requisites.

No. 131, dated 9th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to request that, on your return to Rangoon, you will do me the favor to obtain a respectable Burman for the service of the political prisoner, Prince Myeng-goon-daing, now living at this Settlement. This man should be able to cook for him, and I should be glad if you would settle what wages he should receive, which I will ensure to him.

2. I should further feel obliged if you will send him here to me by the first opportunity offering.

No. 86, dated 8th May, 1867.

From—CAPTAIN T. H. LOWNDES, *Superintendent of Police, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 12, of the 3rd instant, and in reply to the 1st para. respecting the safe custody of the Prince Myeng-goon-daing, to report that I have placed a day sentry over his house, to watch his movements as unobtrusively as may be ; and that the night sentry, who was before placed on the road to the south of Chatham, has had orders to make the Prince's house the centre of his beat. In addition to this, I visit the Prince every day, or every other day, to ascertain that he is present on the Island.

2. In reply to the 2nd para. of your letter respecting the Prince's maintenance, I have the honor to report that on Monday I visited the Prince, and agreeably to your instructions, offered him Rs. 25 as pocket money for the month of May ; he refused to take it, saying that as long as he was clothed and fed, it was sufficient during his compulsory stay here.

3. Your letter says that the Prince is to be maintained comfortably ; for articles of clothing, furniture, &c., I can obtain your sanction before purchasing, but this plan cannot hold good touching his daily meals. I shall feel obliged if you can mention some monthly sum which is not to be exceeded, for the feeding, &c., of the Prince and his suite. At present his daily expenses are high, and I have very little check on the use to which the

articles purchased are put. If, as suggested in your Memo No. 51 of 30th ultimo, the Prince was provided with a respectable free servant, who understands the Burmese language, I should probably be able to manage more comfortably for the Prince and cheaper for his expenses.

4. The Prince has made a request that he may have wine; I beg that I may receive instructions on this head.

5. The last para. of your letter states that the Prince's wife and mother-in-law are allowed to be with him. In addition to those, was handed over to me by Inspector Miller of the Rangoon Police, a Burmese male follower, Nga-too-ay by name. He is about 22 years of age, is a native of Payyee Myo and joined the Prince on his flight from Upper Burmah to English territory. Is he to be allowed to remain?

No. 13, dated 9th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Superintendent of Police, Port Blair.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 86, of yesterday's date, regarding the Prince Myeng-goon-daing, and, in reply, I beg to inform you that I quite approve of the arrangements that you have made for sentries over his quarters and visiting him.

2. With respect to the Prince's maintenance, and the offer you made in part thereof of Rs. 25 pocket money monthly, and which he refused, I should wish that a continuance of this offer be made to him monthly, and it will be sufficient if you record any further refusal in a brief diary which I should wish you to keep, in which your visits and other matters regarding your intercourse with and charge of him should be noted.

3. With reference to your request that I should fix a monthly sum not to be exceeded for feeding &c, the Prince and his suite, I beg to inform you that I fix Rs 100 per mensem as the limit. This sum must cover the payment of any menial servant that he may require; and if he requires wine, which I think very unnecessary, must cover that article also.

4. In reply to your last paragraph, I beg to say that the Prince's follower "Nga-too-ay" may remain with him at present under a proper surveillance I purpose to write to Rangoon for a respectable free servant for the Prince, on whose arrival I will give further instructions with reference to this Nga-too-ay.

No. 130, dated 9th May, 1867.

Memo. by LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

Copies forwarded to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, for the information of the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, and Agent to the Viceroy and Governor General of India.

No. 91, dated 3rd May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to inform you, that the Burmese Prince Myeng-goon-daing has brought with him a free Burman, who appears to act in the capacity of his personal attendant.

In your Memorandum No. 315 of the 16th ultimo, you mentioned that quarters are to be provided for the Prince, his wife, and wife's mother; but I don't learn whether his being accompanied by this attendant is sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner. May I request instructions on this point at your earliest convenience.

No. 478, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 91 of yesterday's date, and in reply to state that the Prince Myeng-goon-daing may keep his male servant so long as you see no objection; should you see any, you can refer to the Chief Commissioner. The mother of the Prince's wife wants to go to Rangoon. I request therefore that a pass be granted to her for a passage by the steamer "Arracan."

No. 353, dated 23rd April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Executive Engineer, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to enquire whether, in the promotion of convicts working in gangs under your orders, you are in any way consulted as to the propriety of such promotions; if you are not, can you favor me with some information as to how these matters are managed, as I can get no clear information on the subject beyond the simple assertion that promotion is due to merit.

No. 41, dated 24th April, 1867.

From—LIEUT. W. G. CUMMING, R. E., *Executive Engineer, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Memo. No. 353 of the 23rd instant, with reference to the promotion of convicts serving under my orders, and requesting to be informed whether I am consulted as to the propriety of such promotions.

In reply, I beg to state that there are two kinds of promotion prevalent in the Settlement: the one being in the recommendation of fit persons to hold such responsible positions as gangsmen, toledars, and parrahwallahs; the other that of recommending skilled workmen among the convicts for promotion from 3rd to 2nd, or 2nd to 1st grade of pay.

The first kind of promotion is generally made by the Superintendent or his Assistant, on the recommendation of some Officer of the Settlement, or much more frequently by that of the overseer of the division, and through him by the division gangsmen, both of whom are generally convicts: it will therefore be seen that this system is open to abuse, and leads directly to bribery.

The second kind of promotion, *viz.*, to skilled laborers from one class of pay to another, is invariably made by the Officer under whom the convicts may be serving; this therefore is open to little or no abuse. I must, however, add that, when I have recommended any convict to the Superintendent for promotion to the rank of gangsman or toledar, he has always readily acquiesced, and promoted him accordingly; but it is in wholesale cases of promotion that a good opportunity offers to the convict gangsmen, &c. to obtain bribes. A case of this nature has just taken place in the 10th division, called the Executive Engineer's division, where six toledars and 20 parrahwallahs were recommended to the Assistant Superintendent for promotion without my being consulted in their selection until the list was complete, when it was sent to me for examination and remarks, as to the fitness or otherwise of those recommended. Out of the 26 persons recommended, I had to reject eight for bad conduct and general idleness at work; and in two other cases, it was proved that the 10th division "mohirrir" had obtained some four rupees from each of the two convicts he had inserted in the list for promotion.

The Assistant Superintendent investigated this case, and reduced the mohirrir; but in order to avoid such like duplicity in future, I requested him to be good enough to let me know when promotions were required in the 10th division (as it is peculiarly the Executive Engineer's division as regards work) with the view of a proper selection of deserving men being recommended.

No. 323, dated 18th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to acknowledge your No. 11, stating your inability to furnish me with a copy of the general rules in force for the working of the administration of the Settlement under your charge, from which, I understand, that there has been as yet no written code of rules framed regulating the various points of convict discipline for the guidance of your subordinates. I wish to know if I am correct in this supposition.

I request now you will favor me with information on the following points:—

1. Please state the system by which prisoners are appointed and promoted to the various petty offices which prevail under the existing system, and state whether you have no written rules on this point.

2. Please state under what system prisoners become self-supporters, and state whether you have no written rules on this point.

3. Please state under what system convicts are allowed to open shops, and state whether there are no written rules on this point.

4. Please state on what system European convicts, who are license-holders, come to hold petty appointments, their rates of pay, and how they get promoted; and state whether there are no written rules extant on this subject.

These are some of the points on which I obviously require information; but as it would be impossible for me, while yet ignorant in a great degree of the system current here, to become acquainted with every detail without an immense waste of time, I request you will send me by noon, Saturday, for persual your Office copies of all rules and regulations at this time current for the working of the Port Blair and other Settlements under your orders.

which have been submitted at various times to Government and received sanction. As I understand from your letter under reply, there have been hitherto no written local rules, I shall be obliged if you will favor me with a memo. of what orders are in force here.

No. 17, dated 20th April, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 323 of 18th April, 1867, upon the subject of the general rules in force for the working of the administration of the Settlement of Port Blair, and requesting to be informed—

First.—Whether you are correct in supposing that as yet no written code of rules has been framed regulating the various points of convict discipline for the guidance of my subordinates.

Second.—Information upon certain points numbered from 1 to 4.

Third.—Requesting me to forward for perusal, my Office copies of all rules andr egulations at this time current for the working of Port Blair, as well as a memo. of what verbal orders are in force here.

2. In reply, and with regard to your first and third enquiries, I have the honor to state that, on my arrival at Port Blair, I found that no framed code of regulations was in existence for the working of the administration of this Settlement. I therefore myself, in progress of time, and after I had, as I considered, gained sufficient experience in time, on the multifarious matters needing regulations, commenced framing a code of rules, in compiling which I have found it necessary to go through the whole of the records of this Office, so as to make myself acquainted with the orders of Government in their entirety as regards this Settlement from its first establishment, so far as such related in any way to the point in question. The code has consequently been founded in its main features upon these records, and the orders, plans, and arrangements that have from time to time been issued or adopted by my predecessors and myself, and have been submitted to Government for the carrying out of this administration, and of which His Excellency the Viceroy in Council has from time to time been pleased to approve. In this code, the preparation of which I have only been enabled to work upon when the constant current business of the Settlement admitted of it, and which is the result of much care and labor, I believe that you will find contained all the information that you may desire in connection with the broad facts and requirements of the working of the convict system as it at present exists at Port Blair, whether as affecting the orders of the Supreme Government, or in respect of what may be termed verbal orders, inasmuch as the code has not yet been submitted for approval and sanction. I have now the honor to forward, along with this letter, rough draft of the above code, in a book as far as heading "Land Allotments," and the remainder, commencing with heading "License," and ending with "Tools and Stores" in loose sheets.

Rules under initial heading U. V. W. Y. only remained to complete the first draft of these regulations, and will shortly be completed.

3. With reference to your second enquiry divided into 4 heads, numbered 1 to 4, I beg to invite attention to the concluding portion of para. 31, and to paras. 32, 34, 53 and 55 of Section 5 head "Jails" of my Administration Report on Port Blair for 1864-65, my only official copy of which, (requested to be returned as soon as it can be spared,) is forwarded for ready reference.

4. In conclusion, I have the honor to request that, as the rough draft of the code herewith has been prepared with much pains, and is therefore valuable to me, that care will be taken of the same, and that it may be returned to this Office when done with.

No. 332, dated 22nd April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge your No 17 of 20th instant, and to state, he understands that the code of rules submitted therewith has been founded upon suggestions which has received the sanction of Government. The undersigned now desires to know for certain whether these rules as now framed are those which are actually in force at this present time. The sanction of Government is not now the object of inquiry. Should there be any rules in the code received with your letter as above, which are not at the present time current, please specify them now.

No. 17 C, dated 25th April, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Memo. marked 332 of the 22nd instant, written consequent upon this Office Memo. No. 17 of 20th idem. You remark that you understand that the code of rules submitted therewith have been founded on suggestions which have received the sanction of Government.

2. The regulations in the main have been founded on the resolutions, orders, and suggestions of Government, or in confirmation of regulations proposed to the Government by former Superintendents as found by the undersigned in the correspondence department of this Office.

3. Several of the rules are deduced from a Note on Port Blair by the Hon'ble General Sir Robert Napier, K. C. B., dated March, 1864, upon whose views in that note and the resolutions of Government thereon following, I have based my system of administration at this Settlement.

4. Other rules are derived from orders and suggestions from the present and late Chief Commissioners of British Burmah; others again where applicable were extracted from the jail codes of British Burmah; some few also are from notes made by the undersigned on the jails of Bengal and the North West Provinces, which he inspected on the suggestion of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General of India, in the early part of last year.

5. Some few of the rules he has himself originated, and some amendations also exist, which he thought it advisable to recommend upon some of the older rules in force in this Settlement.

6. You now desire to know for certain whether these rules now framed are those which are actually in force at the present time. In reply, the undersigned begs to state that in the gross they are actually so; and in their entirety as regards the spirit of this administration, though there may be some introduced by the undersigned, which till approved of by Government, he has felt some diffidence in bringing into force. These, however, may be said to be minor matters, and do not affect the main principles laid down and in force for the management, working, and interior economy generally, of this Settlement.

No. 365, dated 24th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to call attention to this Office No. 332, dated 22nd instant, on the subject of the code of rules for the Port Blair Settlement.

No. 27, dated 25th April, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to inform, in reply to the Chief Commissioner's Office Memorandum No. 365 of 24th instant, that reply to letter No. 332, dated 22nd instant, to which attention is called, has been sent this morning.

No. 400, dated 27th April, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to acknowledge your No. 17 C of the 25th instant, and herewith return the draft rules forwarded to me with your No. 17, dated 20th instant.

2. In doing so, I have to observe that, on the title page of the faired portion of the copy, it is stated—" Code of Regulations to be enforced in the Penal Settlement of Port Blair" ; the code has therefore evidently not had that currency which would fairly constitute it as a set of rules. I have no doubt that you have been guided by the general principles expressed in these rules; but it should be borne in mind that there are two parties concerned, *viz.*, those who framed the rules, and those who have to obey them.

3 Now, until rules are completely published (and in this case many of them translated so as to be intelligible to those who have to be guided by them), it cannot be said there are any rules, and until there are rules, it might be said there can be no breach of rules.

4. I have perused the 155 pages of manuscript rules which have been partially faired; the remainder I could not decipher without much labor; and as they do not answer the purpose which I had in view (inasmuch as they are now only in an embryo state) I return them in order not to delay their preparation.

5. I would desire to invite your consideration of one point, that is, that all rules should be concise; and inasmuch as these rules will have to be applied to a class of men, many of whom are extremely ignorant, I think it will be well if you expressed those (at any rate which apply to the convicts) in sharp, clearly defined language.

6. This leads to the question whether it would not be advisable to sub-divide the code and separate those portions which refer to free settlers, European and subordinates and the general administration into one section, and have the other exclusively applicable to convict discipline,—rules for promotion and punishment, self-supporters, and so forth (and these latter should be translated).

The preparation of the code is a very important work, and you appear to have bestowed on it much labor and consideration; its early completion cannot but be gratifying to Government.

No. 334, dated 19th April, 1867

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to state, he is informed that the rice which is sent here from Rangoon, is largely mixed with paddy; he requests to be informed if there is more paddy in the Rangoon rice than in the rice received from Bengal.

No. 39, dated 22nd April, 1867.

From—LIEUT. A. F. LAUGHTON, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to inform you, in reply to your Memo. No. 334, dated 19th April, that the rice hitherto received from Burmah has far more paddy in it than that received from Calcutta; having, however, pointed this out to the Rangoon Commissariat Officer, he has just sent me a consignment of very good rice of two qualities.

2. I forward herewith samples of Calcutta rice, also of old supply of Rangoon rice, and of two qualities of Burmah rice just received.

No. 336, dated 22nd April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—President, Sanitary Committee.

The undersigned has the honor to forward copy of Lieut. Laughton's No. 39 of this day's date with two bottles containing samples of rice received from Rangoon, and to request the opinion of your Committee thereon.

No. 869, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—DR. W. H. REAN, M. D., *President, Sanitary Committee,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In reply to your Memo. No. 336 with enclosure, dated 22nd April, to the late Senior Medical Officer, on the subject of Burman rice, and requesting an opinion on two samples supplied, I have the honor to state that I consider the sample No 2 is fit for issue; it is not equal in grain to the sample No 1, nor as well cleaned or as highly polished, but most of the grains appear perfect, and would be as nutritious as the 1st sample As the difference in price is considerable, it would be desirable to use the 2nd quality, but care should be taken that it is not at all inferior to the sample. There is no economy in issuing a staple in which cheapness is gained by the admixture of worm-eaten and worthless grains, as the consumers would be deprived of a certain quantity of nutriment; for above all, it is necessary in this Settlement that food in every form is not stinted, and be of the best quality compatible with economy, and a due regard to the health of the laboring convicts.

The suggestion that "Nga-sein-Tsan," a Burman rice of excellent quality used in the jails of Burmah, be introduced is good; and if it can be obtained as stated at half the price of the 2nd sample, a supply might be obtained, and used at first among Burman and Chinese who would prefer it, and its suitability for the entire wants of the Settlement could thus be tested.

No. 362, dated 24th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair

The undersigned has the honor to state that he has been told by several prisoners that the rice they have to purchase is mixed with a large proportion of paddy. On enquiring of the Sub-Assistant Commissary General, it appears, some time back a supply was received from Rangoon in the state described by the prisoners, and this batch is still in progress of consumption. The prisoners complained they had no stones to grind the unhusked paddy. Please state what you recommend in the matter.

No. 36, dated 26th April, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Chief Commissioner's Office Memorandum No. 362 of the 24th instant, on the subject of the rice at present supplied to the convicts of this Settlement; and in reply begs to state that the last consignment of rice received from Burmah, and now issued to the prisoners here, is, as you have been informed, mixed with paddy, and requires cleaning. Consequently, in this Office letter No. 6 of the 11th April, 1867, to your address, it was recommended that, as neither labor nor space was available here for the purpose, the cleaning of this rice in future consignments might, for the present, be advantageously performed in British Burmah.

2. A supply of grinding stones has been written for from Mirzapore. In April last 20 pairs were received and distributed in most of the new stations. Stones are under construction at this Settlement for grinding purposes; but from the want of chisels, they cannot be got on so fast as they are wanted;—chisels have been indented for.

No. 584, dated 15th May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to return with thanks the two sample bottles of rice which have been placed before the Sanitary Committee.

No. 531, dated 17th January, 1867.

From—MAJOR J. C. MACDONALD, for *Assistant Commissary General, Rangoon,*
To—Commissary General, Madras.

I have the honor, with reference to your letter No. 4728, dated the 28th November, 1866, with annexment from the Commissary General, Calcutta, reporting "that a saving to Government of Rs 10,000 has been effected by the proposed purchase here of 10,000 maunds of rice for Port Blair," to inform you that an actual saving of more than double that amount has been obtained by purchasing the same at Moulmein. Had a Government vessel been available, the saving would have been still greater; but owing to the non-arrival of the "Arracan," and the great demand at Port Blair for rice and slaughter cattle, with the consent of the Chief Commissioner, I took up ¾ of the "Sparkler," the Chief Engineer taking up the remaining ¼ for timber. The charges have been debited to Port Blair as desired by you. I beg to annex a memo. of saving effected to Government.

CALCUTTA RATES.									MOULMEIN RATES.									Saving to Government.		Particulars of Freight.	
Rice per Md.			Total for 10,000 Mds.			Freight.			Rice per Md.			Total for 10,000 Mds			Freight.						
Rs	A	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A	P.	Rs.	A.	P	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rice ...	23,125 0 0	49 Bullocks, at 25 ...	1,225
5	5	0	53,125	0	0	3,750	0	0	3	0	0	30,000	0	0	3,225	0	0	Freight .	525 0 0	10,000 Mds. Rice, at 5 as. 1 pie 92 c. ...	3,225
																			23,650 0 0		4,450

No. 468, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to enquire how it has come to pass that, when rice was at famine prices in India, and that article of food was exported largely from Rangoon for the Orissa district, the Commissariat here actually procured heavy supplies from Calcutta, though it could have been had from Rangoon at a far cheaper rate, and at half the cost of freight.

No. 84, dated 3rd May, 1867.

Memo from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 468 of the 29th ultimo, enquiring how it has come to pass that, when rice was nearly at famine prices in India, and that article of food was exported largely from Rangoon for the Orissa district, the Commissariat here actually procured heavy supplies from Calcutta, though they could have been had from Rangoon at a far cheaper rate, and at half the cost of freight.

2 Having referred this matter to the Executive Commissariat Officer, Port Blair, the undersigned begs to forward you enclosed copy of his reply No. 57 of the 30th ultimo. It will be observed that Lieutenant Laughton in his letter draws attention to the prohibition of the late Senior Medical Officer to the issue of Burmah rice that was here in store in July last. Dr. Morton, in writing to the undersigned, pronounced the rice to be "very bad indeed, indigestible, and more or less weavel-eaten, causing bowel complaints." Lieutenant Laughton did not therefore make further indents for Burmah rice. You will also observe that lately the Commissariat Officer at Calcutta has arranged to have a portion of our rice supply from Burmah through the Rangoon Commissariat Officer.

3. Some rice has already been received from Rangoon and issued, but its re-introduction was again unfavorable, having the same bad effects. The undersigned has now made

a proposal for a supply being obtained from Rangoon of that description of rice, which is known as "Nga-sein-tsan." A copy of letter on this subject recently addressed to the Senior Medical Officer is appended, this letter has been shown to his successor Surgeon Rean, who concurs with the undersigned in recommending an experimental introduction of this "Nga-sein-tsan."

4. For your information copies of correspondence with your office are attached relative to the Burmah rice in stock here that was disapproved of by the late Senior Medical Officer

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No. 57, dated 30th April, 1867.

From—LIEUT. A. F. LAUGHTON, *Sub-Assist. Commissary General,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to inform you, in reply to Memo. No. 418, dated 29th April, from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, to your address, that the reason of our not obtaining our supplies of rice from Burmah was that there has been always a strong feeling against Burmah rice in this place, so much so, that I could not dispose of a large quantity of it, which I had on hand, in consequence of the numerous complaints which poured in whenever I attempted to issue it.

2. In July last, finding I could not get rid of my Burmah rice which had then been some 12 months in store, I issued a full month's ration of nothing but Burmah rice, This raised a perfect hue and cry; the rice was not permitted by the Senior Medical Officer to be issued by bunniahs, and what was in their shops was, I believe, issued to the Settlement cattle and pigs at Aberdeen. After this I could not dispose of the balance on hand, and have had it in store since until last month.

3. Lately the Commissariat Officer has arranged to have a portion of our supply sent from Burmah He is in communication with the Rangoon Commissariat Officer, as to the cost of the rice there to enable him to determine which will be the best to send us.

4. Since we have had the Burmah rice sent us again, I have been obliged to issue it, but the result is that the whole Settlement is complaining. Convicts and free residents all say it has the effect of producing looseness of the bowels. Last month I issued the remains of my old supply, which had been objected to in July last. The bunniahs were glad to get it, as it was of better quality than that now under issue.

5. Under these circumstances it did not appear to me advisable to indent for Burmah rice.

No. 13, dated 18th April, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Senior Medical Officer, and President, Sanitary Committee, Port Blair.

I have the honor to forward enclosed copy of a letter to my address from the Executive Commissariat Officer, also herewith two bottles containing samples of rice, referred to, and request the favor of your opinion upon the samples, and the return of the same at your convenience.

2 I would mention that it appears to me that even the second class rice marked of an "inferior quality," is actually a better description of rice than is needed for issue to the convict population. There is a description of rice commonly used in Burmah, called "Nga-sein-tsan," which is of an excellent quality, largely consumed by the poorer class, and, I believe, could be got for half the cost even of No. 2 sample of rice with "Nga-sein-tsan," you are doubtless acquainted as it is I believe, and in the jails of British Burmah.

3. It has occurred to me that we could be assisted with models or patterns of the rice-cleansing machines, as used in the jails of British Burmah, which are, I believe of wood, and would not therefore be so expensive as stone-mills, which have to be procured from Bengal; that if the direction of sufficient convict labor were sanctioned for rice cleansing, that seeing the cheapness of the rice and the simplicity of the process, a considerable saving to the State might be effected in outlay upon rice; at least I think what I propose is worth the experiment.

No. 91, dated 11th September, 1866.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Officiating Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

Demi-official letter from Senior Medical Officer, to Superintendent, Port Blair, dated 24th July, 1866.

No. 486 of 24th July, 1866, from Superintendent, Port Blair, to Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

No. 160, dated 20th July, 1866, from Exe.-Commissariat Officer, Port Blair, to Superintendent, Port Blair.

Demi-official from Senior Medical Officer, to Superintendent, Port Blair, dated 28th July 1866.

I have the honor to forward enclosed copies of correspondence as per margin upon the subject of 134,482 lbs. of grain originally purchased by bunniahs for sale to convicts, that from various causes has become unfit for consumption by the convicts.

2. From the Senior Medical Officer's demi-official marginally noted under date 24th July, 1866, the Chief Commissioner will perceive

that the grain under reference was considered by that Officer "to be very bad indeed, indigestible, and more or less weavel eaten"; and under the circumstances, and to prevent a total loss of the value thereof occurring to Government, the condemned grain was re-sold at the reduced rate of 90 lbs. per one Rupee for the use of Government and private individuals, cattle, poultry, &c.

3. From the accompanying bill it will be perceived that 134,482 lbs. of grain was sold at the rates of 32 and 24 lbs per Rupee respectively, and the amount Rs 4,210-12-2 has been realised from the convict bunniahs to the credit of Government, but the grain having been subsequently *condemned* by the Senior Medical Officer, it becomes imperative on me to refund to the bunniahs the difference arising from the re-sale thereof, at the reduced rate amounting to Rs. 2,716-8-3.

4. I have, therefore, the honor to request the Chief Commissioner will be pleased to move the Government of India, in the Home Department, for sanction, under the above circumstances, to my striking off the amount Rs. 2,716-8-3 to profit and loss.

No. 509, dated 12th October, 1866.

From—Captain C. P. Hildebrand, *Offg. Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

In reply to your No. 91 of 11th ultimo, the Chief Commissioner directs me to enquire if the whole of 134,482 lbs. of grain were actually inspected, and by whom; and also how it is known that the grain was, after re-sale at the reduced rate, still not sold for human food.

No. 182, dated 2nd January, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Offg. Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 509 of the 12th ultimo, and in reply to state, for the information of the Chief Commissoner, that, though the whole 1,34,482 lbs. of grain were not actually inspected, yet it was all issued from the same stock; and as the Senior Medical Officer of this Settlement considered it unwholesome and unfit for human food, I directed that the same be made over to the bunniahs who have the supplying of grain for Government cattle.

With reference to the foregoing, I beg to add that a correspondence has recently taken place upon this subject, copy of which I herewith annex for ready reference.

Dated 19th May, 1867.

From—Surgeon W. P. Kelly, *Superintendent, Central Jail, Rangoon,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissoner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor, in reply to your enquiries respecting rice, to state that I can supply rice for the use of the convicts at Port Blair properly cleaned, at the rate of two rupees per basket of 64 lbs.

No. 349, dated 23rd April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

The undersigned has the honor to request you will favor him with a return showing the number of trips made by the schooner "Lady Lawrence" during 1866 in the annexed form.

A separate return for the "Alexandra."

No. 81, dated 2nd May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

With reference to No. 349 of the 23rd ultimo, the undersigned has the honor to forward enclosed returns showing the number of trips, &c., made by the schooners "Lady Lawrence" and "Alexandra" during the year 1866 therein called for.

Return showing the number of Trips made by the Schooner "Lady Lawrence," during the year 1866.

No. of Trips.	From what Port.	Date of Departure.	To what Port.	Date of Arrival.	No. of days detained in Port at the Andamans.	No. of days detained in other Ports and names of Ports.		Causes for detention at each Port.	Total cost of the Schooner on account of Pay of the Establishment, Repairs, and every other item.	Detail of Cargo and Live Stock conveyed by each Trip.
						Name of Port.	No. of days detained.			
1	Rangoon ...	5th January ...	Maulmain ..	8th January ...	...	Maulmain...	18	Undergoing petty repairs, discharging cargo & ballast loading.	The actual *cash* expenditure which appears in the Books of this office for 1866 is Rs 2,343-13-9.* Stores have been issued to the schooner by Departments, both local and in British Burmah, of which latter no records exist in this office. The salary of Establishment and Contingencies of the schooner for the greater part of the year have been paid in British Burmah, and debited to the Settlement in the books of the Acct. General. This office has therefore no means of noting the actual cost of the schooner "Lady Lawrence;" but the cost of Establishment at Rs. 424 per mensem may be estimated at Rs. 5,088 annually.	Ballast.
2	Maulmain ...	26th January ...	Port Blair ...	1st February ...	7	.....	...			10 bullocks, 675 boards, 15 bales of straw, 11 casks sujee, 7 cases of sundries, and 5 bags of gram.
3	Port Blair ...	8th February...	Maulmain ...	21st February ...	...	Maulmain...	29			Ballast.
4	Maulmain ...	23rd March ...	Port Blair ...	2nd April ...	17	.....	...			35 bundles of hay.
5	Port Blair ...	5th April ...	Port Mouat ...	8th April ...	1	.....	...			
6	Port Mouat ...	9th April ...	Port Campell ...	10th April ...	1	.....	...			In search of runaway convicts.
7	Port Campbell...	11th April ...	Port Blair ...	14th April ...	5	.....	...			
8	Port Blair ...	19th April ...	Mergui ...	28th April ...	...	Mergui ...	7			Ballast.
9	Mergui ...	5th May ...	Port Blair ...	30th May ...	16	.....	...			11,000 thatching leaves, and 200 bundles rattans.
10	Port Blair ...	16th June ...	Rangoon ...	19th June ...	...	Rangoon ...	20			45 tons corals.
11	Rangoon ...	9th July ...	Port Blair ...	31st July ...	23	.....	...			11 casks dholl, 40 bundles torches, 6 bales salt fish, 303 pieces scantlings, 8 casks earth oil, 1 bag gum arabic, 3 casks Burmah dates, 5 casks turmeric, 13 casks ghoor, 134 sheets galvanized iron, 3 cases for P. W. D.
12	Port Blair ...	23rd August ...	Rangoon ...	27th August ...	...	Rangoon ...	19			60 tons coral.
13	Rangoon ...	15th September.	Port Blair ...	3rd October ...	20	.....	...			1,055 boards, 4 pieces scantlings, 62 bundles shingles.
14	Port Blair ...	23rd October ...	Rangoon ...	29th October ...	...	Rangoon ...	17			100 specimens of Andaman timber
15	Rangoon ...	15th November..	Port Blair ..	18th November..	12	.....	...			12 pairs blacksmiths' bellows, 4 bags nails, 30 cases of ghee, 6 packages containing straw press, 772 pieces scantlings, 394 doors and windows, 18 cases of ghee, and 6 cases of sundries.
16	Port Blair ...	30th November..	Cocos ..	1st December...	11	.....	...			Ballast.
17	Cocos ...	12th December..	Port Blair ...	16th December...	...	.....	...			6,000 cocoanuts and 200 cocoanut plants.

* The *value* of stores issued to the schooner "Lady Lawrence" from the Marine and Commissariat Departments at Port Blair during the year 1866 is Rs. 1,175-3-9.

Port Blair,
27th April, 1867.

B. FORD, *Lieut.-Colonel,*
Superintendent, Port Blair.

Return showing the number of Trips made by the Schooner "Alexandra" during the year 1866.

No. of Trips.	From what Port.	Date of Departure.	To what Port.	Date of Arrival.	No. of days detained in Port at the Andamans.	No. of days detained in other Ports & Names of Ports.		Causes for detention at each Port.	Total cost of the Schooner on account of pay of Establishment, repairs, and every other item.	Detail of Cargo and Live Stock conveyed by each Trip.
						Name of Port.	No. of days detained.			
1	Maulmain ...	11th January ...	Port Blair ...	17th January ...	3	Maulmain...	11	Undergoing petty repairs, discharging ballast, taking in, and discharging cargo.	The actual *cash* expenditure which appears on the books of this office for 1866, is Rs. 1,347-7.* Stores have been issued to the schooner by Departments, both local and in British Burmah, of which latter no record exist in this office. The salary of establishment and contingencies of the schooner for the greater part of the year have been paid in British Burmah and debited to this Settlement in the books of the Accountant General. This office, therefore, has no means of noting the actual cost of the schooner "Alexandra" but the cost of establishment at Rs. 424 per mensem may be estimated at Rs. 5,088 annually.	10 bullocks, 6 pieces large planks, 5 boxes sundries, 1 parcel and 1 bag.
2	Port Blair ...	20th January ...	Maulmain ...	10th February..	...	Ditto ...	8			25 Chinese carpenters, and luggage and mails.
3	Maulmain ...	18th February ...	Rangoon ...	22nd February...	...	Rangoon ...	12			10 bullocks, 12 pieces scantlings, and 5 bags potatoes.
4	Rangoon ...	6th March ...	Port Blair ...	12th March ...	4	.....	...			
5	Port Blair ...	16th March ...	Rangoon ...	26th March ...	...	Rangoon ...	15			Ballast and mails.
6	Rangoon ...	11th April ...	Port Blair ...	18th April ...	6	.....	...			10 bullocks, 17 bales of straw.
7	Port Blair ...	24th April ...	Cocos ...	3rd May ...	..	Cocos ...	3			2,000 cocoanuts and ballast.
8	Cocos ...	6th May ...	Port Blair ...	13th May ...	18	.....	..			
9	Port Blair ..	31st May ...	Rangoon ...	3rd June ...	...	Rangoon ...	13			Ballast and mails.
10	Rangoon ...	26th June ...	Port Blair ...	17th July ...	23	.....	..			32 bags yams, 7 bags onions, 24 tins preserved potatoes, 141 tins paint, 60 bundles torches, 21 hhds. sugar, 10 pipes sugar, 1 cask flour, 4 barrels gunpowder, 7 bales punjum cloth.
11	Port Blair ...	9th August ...	Port Mouat ...	10th August ...	...	Port Mouat	9			500 bags rice.
12	Port Mouat ...	19th August ...	Rangoon ...	25th August ...	..	Rangoon ...	45			Ballast and mails.
13	Rangoon ...	9th October ...	Port Blair ...	2nd November..	15	.....	...			430 bags rice, 100 dunnage mats, Nos. 1 and 2 Lighters in Company.
14	Port Blair ...	17th November..	Rangoon ...	5th December...	..	Rangoon ...	15			Ballast and mails.
15	Rangoon ...	20th December..	Port Blair ...	23rd December...	4	....	...			48,000 shingles.
16	Port Blair ...	27th December...	Cocos ...	28th December...	...	Cocos ...	...			On survey duty.

* The *value* of stores issued to the schooner "Alexandra" from the Marine and Commissariat Departments at Port Blair during the year 1866 is Rs. 1,148-12-9.

Port Blair,
27th April, 1867.

B. FORD, Lieut.-Colonel,
Superintendent, Port Blair.

Statement showing the number of trips made by Settlement Schooners "Lady Lawrence" and "Alexandra;" their date of departure and arrivals at various Ports; Cargo carried in each trip, &c., from 1st May, 1866, to 30th April, 1867.

Names of Vessels	Number of Trips made from 1st May, 1866 to 30th April, 1867	Port.	Date of Departure	Port.	Date of Arrival.	Cargo carried in each Trip	Number of days detained at each Port.	Cause of Detention.
"Lady Lawrence."	1	Mergui	May 5, '66	Port Blair	May 30, '66	11,000 thatching leaves, and 200 bundles rattans ...	7	Under petty repairs, discharging ballast, and loading and discharging cargo.
	2	Port Blair..	June 16, '66	Rangoon .	June 19, '66	45 tons of coral ...	16	
	3	Rangoon ...	July 9, '66	Port Blair..	July 31, '66	1 cask dholl, 40 bundles torches, 6 bundles salt fish, 303 pieces scantlings, 8 casks earth oil, 1 bag gum arabic, 3 casks dahs, 5 casks turmeric, 13 casks goor, 134 sheets galvanized iron, and 3 cases for P. W. D.	23	
	4	Port Blair..	Aug. 23, '66	Rangoon	Aug. 27, '66	60 tons coral ..	19	
	5	Rangoon ...	Sept. 15, '66	Port Blair..	Oct. 3, '66	1,055 boards, 4 pieces scantlings, and 62 bundles shingles...	17	
	6	Port Blair..	Oct. 23, '66	Rangoon	Oct. 29, '66	100 specimens of Andaman wood ...	12	
	7	Rangoon ...	Nov. 15, '66	Port Blair	Nov. 18, '66	2 pairs blacksmith's bellows, 4 bags nails, 30 cases ghee, 6 packages containing straw press, 772 pieces of scantlings 394 doors and windows, 18 cases of ghee, and 6 cases of sundries	11	
	8	Port Blair	Nov. 30, '66	Cocos ..	Dec. 1, '66	Ballast	12	
	9	Cocos	Dec 12, '66	Port Blair..	Dec. 16, '66	6,000 cocoanuts, and 200 cocoanut plants	9	
	10	Port Blair .	Jan. 16, '67	Barren Is.	Jan. 17, '67	... .	31	
	11	Barren Is.	.....	Port Blair	Jan. 22, '67	86 bundles hay ..	...	
	12	Port Blair..	Jan. 26, '67	Barren Is...	Jan. 27, '67	... ...	4	
	13	Barren Is.	Jan. 28, '67	Port Blair	Jan. 29, '67	90 bundles hay ..	1	
	14	Port Blair..	Jan. 31, '67	AndamanC	.....	. ...	2	
	15	AndamanC	.....	Port Blair .	Feb. 3, '67	1 bouy and 1 mooring cable	1	
	16	Port Blair.	Feb. 4, '67	Barren Is...	Feb. 5, '67	... ...	...	
	17	Barren Is.	.....	Port Blair..	Feb. 8, '67	Hay ...	...	
	18	Port Blair .	Feb. 11, '67	Barren Is	Feb. 12, '67	... ...	3	
	19	Barren Is.	.....	Port Blair..	Feb. 15, '67	Hay ...	...	
	20	Port Blair	Feb. 20, '67	Rangoon ...	... ..	Ballast ...	5	
	21	Rangoon ..	Mar. 25, '67	Port Blair..	April 7, '67	8,000 bundles rattans, 42 bundles tobacco, and 45 kegs nail	...	
"Alexandra."	1	Cocos ..	May 6, '66	Port Blair.	May 13, '66	2,000 cocoanuts and ballast .	18	Undergoing petty repairs, discharging ballast, loading and discharging cargo.
	2	Port Blair.	May 31, '66	Rangoon ..	June 3, '66	Ballast ...	13	
	3	Rangoon .	June 26, '66	Port Blair..	July 17, '66	32 bags yams, 7 bags onions, 24 tins preserved potatoes, 141 tins paints, 60 bundles torches, 21 hogshead and 10 pipes sugar, 1 cask flour, 4 barrels gunpowder, and 7 bales Punjum cloth .	23	
	4	Port Blair..	Aug. 9, '66	Port Mouat	Aug. 10, '66	500 bags rice .	24	
	5	Port Mouat	Aug. 19, '66	Rangoon ...	Aug. 25, '66	Ballast .	9	
	6	Rangoon ...	Oct. 9, '66	Port Blair.	Nov. 2, '66	430 bags rice, 100 dunnage mats ...	45	
	7	Port Blair..	Nov. 17, '66	Rangoon ...	Dec. 5, '66	Ballast ...	15	
	8	Rangoon	Dec. 20, '66	Port Blair.	Dec. 23, '66	48,000 shingles ...	15	
	9	Port Blair..	Dec. 27, '66	Cocos ..	Dec. 28, '66	On survey duty ...	4	
	10	Cocos ...	.....	Port Blair.	March 6, '67	Teak logs from Cocos Lighthouse and straw. ...	...	
	11	Port Blair.	Mar. 13, '67	Mergui ...	. ..	Ballast ...	7	
	12	Mergui ...	.....	Port Blair .	April 20, '67	Thatching leaves ...	...	

B FORD, Lieut.-Colonel,
Superintendent, Port Blair.

No. 427, dated 29th April, 1867

Memo from—MAJOR H N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair

I have the honor by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to call your attention to the subject of the two schooners "Alexandra" and "Lady Lawrence," which are employed on the marine service of Port Blair, and to request your opinion as to the advisability of disposing of these vessels, and purchasing one ship of greater capacity to do the work,—say a brig of 300 to 400 tons.

2 You should take into consideration the cost per month of the two schooners now employed, their sailing and carrying powers, and the probable amount of gain or loss to the State, by obtaining one larger vessel capable of doing the work of the "Alexandra" and "Lady Lawrence."

3. I should be glad by your filling in the subjoined form:—

Vessel's Name.	Number of trips made from 1st May 1866, to 30th April 1867.	Date of departure from port.	No. of days detained at each port.	Cause of departure.	REMARKS.

4 Supposing Mr. Homfray reverts to his appointment as Harbour Master, would Mr Darwood be a suitable man to command a brig; and would Mr Avery of the "Lady Lawrence," and Mr. Mathews of the "Alexandra," do as 3rd and 2nd Officers?

No. 82, dated 2nd May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your memo. No. 427 of 29th ultimo, calling my attention, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, to the subject of the two Settlement schooners "Alexandra" and "Lady Lawrence," which are employed on the marine service of this Settlement, and request my opinion as to the advisability of disposing of these vessels, and purchasing one ship of greater capacity to do the work, say a brig of 300 or 400 tons.

2. The Chief Commissioner desires that I should take into consideration the cost per month of the two schooners now employed, their sailing and carrying powers, and the possible amount of gain or loss to the State by obtaining one larger vessel capable of doing the work of both the schooners.

3 In reply, I beg to state, for the information of the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, that, having given my careful consideration to all the points on which you place the matter before me, I am of opinion that a good, sound, well-built, and fast sailing brig, with a cargo carrying capacity of not less than 350 tons, below a main deck on which cattle could be carried, may be procured for the Settlement service; that the employment of such a craft would be most probably a gain to the State in comparison with the amount of cargo that could be carried by the Settlement schooners "Alexandra" and "Lady Lawrence."

4. I furnish in the attached form the particulars that you apply for.

5. Referring to the last para. of your letter, supposing that Mr. Homfray returns to his appointment as Harbour Master, and enquiring if Mr. Darwood would be a suitable man to command the brig, and Messrs. Mathews and Avery would do as officers, I have the honor to state that I beg highly to recommend Mr. Darwood for such command on not less than Rs 350 per mensem, and Mr. Mathews, who is senior, and Mr. Avery, for the posts of 1st and 2nd Officers, the former on Rs. 175 and the latter on Rs. 150 per mensem, or in place of a 2nd Officer a good gunner, whose services, I understand, could be obtained for from Rs. 100 to 125 per mensem.

No. 460, dated 3rd May, 1867

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request that his letter No 427 of 29th April, on the subject of the schooners "Lady Lawrence" and

"Alexandra" may be cancelled, as that letter was sent by an oversight, and the previous letter No. 349 of 23rd on the same subject has been replied to by your No. 81 of 2nd instant, and contains sufficient information.

No. 90, dated 3rd May, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to inform, that the Chief Commissioner's office memo. No. 460, of this day's date, cancelling letter No. 427 of 29th April on the subject of the schooners "Lady Lawrence" and "Alexandra," was received after despatch of this Office reply.

No. 241, dated 29th March, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to forward attached, for the information of the Officiating Chief Commissioner, copy of Sanitary Report of the Settlement of Port Blair, for the year 1866, by A. Gamack, Esq., A. M. and M. D., Civil Assistant Surgeon, Officiating Senior Medical Officer, Port Blair.

SANITARY REPORT OF THE SETTLEMENT OF PORT BLAIR FOR THE YEAR 1866.

Throughout the year, Surgeon Major D. T. Morton, M.D., F.R.C.S., had been in medical charge; but for some considerable time back he had been ailing, and died on the 11th February, 1867, from chronic disease of the liver of long standing. On my assuming medical charge consequent on his death, I found he had been unable to complete the annual return, and had left no remarks on the sanitary condition of the Settlement during the past year, so it falls to my duty to despatch the annual return, which I shall make as brief as circumstances will permit.

Topography.

Port Blair and its climate has been repeatedly remarked on, and it need now only be noted that the fall of rain during the past year has been more than usual, amounting, in all, to 131·2 inches, distributed throughout the year as follows:—

No. of rainy days in	January	1	Amount of rain fall		...	5	inches.
" do.	February	0	do.	...	...	0	"
" do.	March	0	do.	...	...	0	"
" do.	April	3	do.	...	...	1·5	"
" do.	May	16	do.	...	...	21·8	"
" do.	June	24	do.	...	...	42·2	"
" do.	July	24	do.	...	...	24·	"
" do.	August	17	do.	..	...	10·	"
" do.	Sept.	19	do.	...	...	16·	"
" do.	Oct.	14	do.	...	...	4·2	"
" do.	Nov.	3	do.	...	...	8·8	"
" do.	Dec.	2	do.	...	...	2·2	"
Total Days	...	123				131·2	inches.

More advance in clearing the jungle has been made than in previous years, especially at Mount Harriet, Navy Bay, and Hope Town; and new stations have been opened out at Perseverance Point, Command Point, South Point, and Port Mouat.

The 1st and 2nd stations are now comparatively healthy, as also the clearance at Port Mouat called Tytler's Ghaut, and considered suitable to be given out to cultivators; but the remaining stations have yet to be tested in this respect.

The swamps on both sides of Aberdeen have been bunded as formerly recommended, and are now in progress of clearance, and will become fine paddy land. This station, which has heretofore been the most unhealthy, though still a feverish place, is not so deadly as formerly, and will doubtless improve as clearances advance and cultivation progresses. Many of the men employed in bunding these swamps suffered from severe fever, and contracted gangrenous ulcers, although every precaution was taken, such as supplying the men with quinine and rum, and not allowing them to work early in the morning, or late in the evening, and having them to sleep at a distance on board a hulk moored across the bay.

Accommodation.

Barracks for convicts, as described in the last Annual Report, are being constructed at each station as rapidly as material can be made available. Each barrack is 110 feet long, by 36 wide, and 12 feet to the eaves, capable of containing 110 men allowing 36 superficial feet, and over 600 cubic feet per man. Of buildings of this description there are now completed and occupied on Ross Island, 9; on Chatham Island, 2; on Viper Island, 4, at Haddo, 4; at Aberdeen, 4; Navy Point, 4; Mount Harriet, 4; and Command Point, 2; and besides there is on Chatham Island a large corrugated iron

shed capable of containing 150 men. As at present distributed, the labouring convicts are well housed, and have ample accommodation, except on Ross Island, where they are occasionally over-crowded on account of the large number of men employed on the various works being carried on; and it being considered advisable for all new arrivals to be located here for the first three to six months as can be arranged for their residence in the Settlement. To meet this demand for accommodation, four large temporary barracks are at present being erected by the Superintendent.

Self-supporters, shop-keepers, and married convicts, have each a detached hut which they are obliged to build in regular lines, and on the plan of a neat model given by the Superintendent; each hut being 24 feet by 16 feet by 8 feet, having double mat walls and roofed with thatch, with raised mauchan within for sleeping on; and when the walls are white-washed and the ground around are kept clean and drained as ordered, the rows of cottages have a comfortable and rather picturesque appearance.

The hospital accommodation has been the same as last year, except that an additional hospital for invalids has been erected on Viper Island, and one for the sick generally at Port Mouat, each of which is of exactly the same construction as the barracks for the convicts generally, *viz.*, teak buildings on an iron frame work. The space allowed for the sick was found to be sufficient till the setting in of the S W. monsoon; when, from the increased number of convicts arriving in the Settlement, the hospitals became temporarily over-crowded, and the best arrangements available had to be made, barracks being cleared on Ross and Chatham Islands and made available for the sick, but additional accommodation is now being built, *viz.*, two large hospitals at Haddo, 308 feet by 20 feet by 12 feet, each capable of containing 100 patients, and one on Ross, 156 feet by 20 feet by 12 feet for 52 patients, besides a hospital at Haddo for females, 70 feet by 24 feet by 14 for 38 sick; a small receiving hospital has also been built at Aberdeen, 40 feet by 24 feet, by 14 feet for detaining the sick of that station for a few days under the care of a dresser if it should be doubtful whether it were necessary to send the men to the General Hospital on Ross Island; corrugated iron cook-houses have been or are being erected for all these hospitals.

Diet.

The laboring convicts generally are divided into three classes, which respectively receive 2 annas, 2½ annas, and 3 annas a day to provide themselves with food, which they are able to obtain in the sundry bazars established at each Station, where good and abundant supplies, procured from the Commissariat Department, are kept on sale under local regulations.

The only article of diet which is not procurable in sufficient abundance, and the want of which has a deleterious effect on the health of the convicts is animal food in its various shapes, the short supply of which has frequently been brought to the notice of Government by the local authorities. The diseases most fatal are those arising from extreme debility or anœmia in some form, and it is considered most desirable that every effort should be made to increase the supply of mutton, beef, milk, eggs, fish, &c., in the bazars, so that all, considering caste prejudices, may be able to obtain food of this description in sufficient quantity.

The following is the scale of diet given to Native prisoners while in hospital,—mutton, milk, eggs, &c., being given as extra articles of diet at the discretion of the Medical Officers:—

Meals.	Rice or Flour.	Dholl.	Vegetables	Ghee.	Salt.	Mussallah or Curry Stuff.
	Chittacks.	Chittacks.	Chittacks.	Chittacks.	Ounces.	Ounces.
Morning Meal ...	4	1	0	¼	¼	¼
Evening Meal ...	5	1	2	¼	¼	¼
Total ...	9	2	2	½	½	½

Employment.

The employment has been on promiscuous works as heretofore, and this has in no way seemed to have had any unusual influence on the health of the men, except in those who were employed in felling the jungle, opening out new clearances, and bunding the swamps, on which works an unusually large proportion has been employed, and accordingly added to the mortality; such employment being unavoidably injurious to the health of the men who have to fell the jungle, and open out new Settlements, but from which beneficial results will now follow.

Clothing.

Clothing is supplied to the prisoners by Government, as required, and in sufficient quantity. It is made up by themselves; they receive three suits a year and a blanket; and all working in the jungles are supplied with sandals; those employed in the Marine Department have a woollen suit as they are more exposed in the rains.

Remarks as to the principal classes of disease by which sickness and mortality have been occasioned.

The number of the convicts in the Settlement has considerably increased during the year. On the 1st January, there were 5,304, and in sundry batches 2,256 have been since received, making a total of 7,560 (*vide* Table A). From those, there have been 10,788 admissions; 9,833 have been discharged; 610 remain under treatment; and 657 cases proved fatal.

The mortality has been considerably greater than last year, which was a healthy year; and but few batches of new arrivals were received till near the close of it; this latter circumstance alone accounts for a great difference in the proportion of fatal cases, as a very great number of deaths takes place amongst men who have not been more than a year in the Settlement.

The rate of mortality for the last three years will be seen by the following Tabular Statement:—

Years.	1864.			1865.			1866.		
Months.	Numerical Strength.	Deaths.	Percentage of deaths to strength.	Numerical Strength.	Deaths.	Percentage of deaths to strength.	Numerical Strength.	Deaths.	Percentage of deaths to strength.
January	3,183	62	1·94	3,609	27	·74	5,034	24	·47
February	3,183	45	1·44	3,635	19	·52	5,444	25	·44
March	3,174	49	1·55	3,622	18	·49	5,643	42	·74
April	3,233	25	·77	3,646	24	·65	5,833	43	·73
May	3,188	50	1·56	3,664	28	·76	6,385	81	1·26
June	3,410	42	1·23	3,790	36	·94	6,306	68	1·07
July	3,355	50	1·49	3,814	25	·65	6,409	96	1·49
August	3,328	37	1·11	3,814	18	·47	6,396	79	1·23
September	3,286	18	·54	3,811	9	·23	6,271	62	·98
October	3,300	23	·69	4,009	15	·37	6,206	61	·98
November	3,377	37	1·09	4,538	19	·41	6,485	39	·60
December	3,320	41	1·23	5,163	20	·38	6,479	37	·57
Total ...	3,278	479	14·64	3,926	258	6·57	6,074	657	10·56

Hence on the average strength, there has been 10·56 per cent. of deaths during the past year; and, in explaining the causes of the increase, I cannot do better than quote a letter from the late Dr. Morton to the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Pegu Division, in reply to one from him calling for full details as to his opinion on the subject:—

"1. The very considerable increase of late in the number of prisoners transported to Port Blair.

"2. A considerable proportion of these being old and worn-out men, while others were, on their reaching the Settlement, in a far advanced stage of disease (this more especially applies to the convicts received here from Bombay and Madras) from scurvy, pulmonary consumption, atrophy, asthma, and bowel complaints, and all more or less as usual, on their first arrival in this Penal Settlement, being in a very low desponding state of mind in consequence of their banishment from country and friends.

"3. To the discontinuance of the system, I recommended on my first assuming medical charge of Port Blair in June 1864, and which had rigidly been adhered to, up to March last, of employing the recently arrived convicts on Ross Island, for a period of six months, so that their constitution might in some measure have become acclimatized to the great change (for them) of climate before they were sent to work in clearing the jungles.

"4. This employment having been more especially of late calculated to produce disease in consequence of the prisoners having had to make extensive jungle clearance at Navy Bay, Command and South Points, and at the new station of Port Mouat, all of which work as well as that of bunding the swamps at Aberdeen in which they have also been latterly employed, more or less involved their having to wade continually through slush and rank vegetation, which frequently produced abrasions of the skins of their lower extremities, which abrasions often degenerated (in men of vitiated constitutions as many of them were) into malignant gangrenous ulcers defying all attempts to cure, terminated fatally in many instances. It is but right, I should here remark, that in consequence of the greatly increased numerical strength of the prisoners, and the above clearances requiring to be made as speedily as possible, the Superintendent felt himself obliged to abandon the system (which he reluctantly did) which I had so strongly urged on him to continue, if possible, *viz.*, that of employing none but the acclimatized convicts on jungle work."

III. I beg to add that every precaution in my power was taken to prevent disease occurring amongst convicts employed in the foregoing labor in the jungles. Those engaged in bunding the swamps slept of a night, on my recommendation, on board a hulk provided for the purpose; a dose of quinine was given to them daily before proceeding to work, and a measure of rum on their leaving off work: these preventatives of disease being also administered to the other convicts employed in clearing the jungles. I likewise strongly

represented to the Superintendent, that all these prisoners should each be provided with a pair of leathern gaiters as well as a pair of "kuddouns" to protect their legs and feet from abrasions, and this recommendation he has strongly seconded being complied with, in his application to superior authority on the subject, but no reply has yet been received

IV. With a view to the improvement of the health of the convicts in Port Blair, I would suggest:—

1*st*.—"That those transported from the Presidency of Bombay and Madras should be "accompanied by some competent person to see that they are properly treated on board-"ship during the passage, more especially with reference to their provisions being properly "served out to them, and their being allowed adequate breathing space; likewise that at "least a medical subordinate should invariably be sent with them to attend to their medical "requirements, no such attendants having ever been provided for the convicts transported "here from those Presidencies, though the transit from Bombay has not unfrequently been "of as long duration as a whole month and upwards.

2*nd*.—"That the system in force here up to March last of not allowing unacclimatized "prisoners to work in the jungles, be again had recourse to, if possible.

3*rd*.—"That each of those convicts be supplied with a pair of gaiters and "kuddouns" to "protect their legs and feet from abrasions of the skin whilst working in the jungle."

4*th*.—"That as nearly all the diseases from which the convicts suffer here are more or less "of an adynamic character, and connected with a debilitated state of the constitution, I "would strongly urge that animal food, *in some shape or other*, be issued to them once or twice "a week according to the prejudices of their respective castes as in the form of milk, eggs, "meat, or fresh fish, no animal food in any shape being issued to them at present"

V "In conclusion, I think it proper to mention as a proof that the climate is *not* inimical to either Europeans or natives of India, *who arrive here in a tolerably healthy state, who partake of nutritious and wholesome food and are exempt from jungle work*, that not a single death has taken place amongst the European Infantry (average 110 strong) or Madras Sappers (127 strong) for upwards of a twelve month; nor has it been necessary to send away from the Settlement a single man of either detachment on account of ill-health during the same comparatively long period."

The special diseases, which have proved most fatal, have been the same as in former years: from miasmatic diseases 196; from constitutional diseases (chiefly anœmia) 160; from ulcers, abscesses, wounds, and injuries in men of an unhealthy habit of body and debilitated constitution 146, and from old age, atrophy, and asthenia 104. Appended (Table B) is a statement showing the ages of the convicts who died in 1866, from which it will be seen that over 40 per cent. of the total deaths occurred amongst men of forty years of age and upwards,—a circumstance in itself sufficient to show that men of that advanced age are not suitable subjects to be transported, and, as this matter has already been repeatedly noticed in former reports, I need only strongly urge that it be again brought to the notice of Government with a view to prevent infirm, decrepid old men being sent to the Settlement to die.

Epidemics.

No epidemic has occurred: One case of cholera out of three proved fatal, and that happened in the case of a man landed sick from the "Tubal Cain" on the 12th April 1866.

Vaccination can only be practised during the dry months. Accordingly, all children and adults were vaccinated in the month of January who were known not to have been so previously. 128 cases proved successful, and 29 unsuccessful.

(Sd.) A. GAMACK, A M & M D.,
Asst. Surgeon, and Offg. Senior Medical Officer.

PORT BLAIR,
The 16th February, 1867.

FORM A.

Statement shewing the total number of Convicts resident in the Penal Settlement of Port Blair, and the number of Casualties in and out of Hospital during the year 1866, as well as the number remaining on the 1st day of January 1867.

	Natives.		Europeans and Eurasians.	Total.	Remarks
	Males	Females			
No. of Convicts remaining on the 1st day of January 1866	4,933	333	38	5,304	
Ditto received from 1st January to 31st December 1866 ...	2,139	112	5	2,256	
Total	7,072	445	43	7,560	
No. of Convicts escaped during the year 1866	232	1	.....	233	
Ditto died in Hospital during the year 1866	647	10	.....	657	
Ditto died from diseases out of Hospital during the year 1866	9	.....	.....	9	
Ditto murdered during the year 1866	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Ditto committed suicide during the year 1866	1	2	.....	3	
Ditto drowned during the year 1866	3	.....	.....	3	
Ditto shot during the year 1866 ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Ditto died by falling in of barrack during the year ...	3	.....	.....	3	
Ditto transferred to other Jails during the year	90	... ..	1	91	
Ditto hanged during the year 1866	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Ditto licensed during the year 1866	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Ditto released during the year 1866	39	1	7	47	
Deduct Casualties, Total...	1,024	14	8	1,046	*Of escaped convicts returned to the Settlement or recaptured— Males ... 163 Females ... 1
	6,048	431	35	6,516	
Add recaptured Escaped Convicts ..	*163	1	.....	164	
No. of Convicts remaining on the 1st day of January 1867	6,211	432	35	6,678	

(Sd.) A GAMACK, A. M & M. D.,
Asst. Surgeon, and Offg. Senior Medical Officer

FORM B.

Statement shewing the Ages and Sex of Convicts who have died in Hospital during the year 1866.

Sex.	Under 25 years.	25 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 45.	Above 45 years.	Total.	Remarks.
Males...	11	270	101	71	194	647	
Females	.....	4	.....	2	4	10	
Total	11	274	101	73	198	657	
Per centage on Total deaths.	1 67	41 70	15 37	11 11	30 13	100	

PORT BLAIR,
The 1st January, 1867.

(Sd.) A. GAMACK, A M & M D.,
Asst. Surgeon, and Offg. Senior Medical Officer.

No. 327, dated 20th April, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to acknowledge your No. 241, enclosing a copy of Assistant Surgeon Gamack's Report on the sanitary state of the Settlement under your superintendence for the past year.

This report discloses a state of things which is much to be regretted : the death-rate for the last year has been much in excess of that for the previous year ; and the general appearance of the convicts in regard to health is far from satisfactory.

The points to which the Report directs attention are of that nature that I consider it advisable the attention of competent medical men should be directed to the matter, and I have, therefore, deemed it right to take advantage of the power given me by the Chief Commissioner, to form a Committee, to assist in the investigation of the causes which led to so great a mortality among the prisoners, and to their present indifferent state of health. I have, therefore, appointed Surgeon Cowie, Assistant Surgeon Kelly, and Lieutenant Laughton as a Committee, of which Dr. Cowie is President, to take into consideration and report to me on various points connected with the sanitary state of this Settlement.

I enclose you a copy of the memo. I have furnished to Dr. Cowie ; and should you consider there are any other points necessary for this Committee to report on, I should feel obliged by your communicating them to me.

I request you will have the goodness to warn Lieutenant Laughton, Sub-Assistant Commissary General, to afford every information the Committee may require. The Executive Engineer will be required to attend the Committee, and aid them with his advice when they inspect ground for the further extension of the Settlement.

The Assistant Superintendent should accompany the Committee when the President may desire his assistance.

No. 328, dated 20th April, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—*Executive Engineer, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that a Committee has been formed, of which Surgeon Cowie is President, for the purpose, among other matters, of enquiring into the sanitary arrangements of the several stations which form this Settlement, and also to ascertain where extension of existing Settlements could most advantageously be made.

You will be good enough to give the President the aid of your advice in all matters connected with your profession, and accompany him, when he may desire, to inspect the various localities.

No. 329, dated 20th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—*Senior Medical Officer and President, Sanitary Committee, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will be President of a Committee to enquire into the sanitary state of the prisoners at the several stations which form the Settlement at Port Blair, and also upon some other points.

I enclose a memorandum for your guidance.

You will be assisted by Assistant Surgeon Kelly, Superintendent, Rangoon Central Prison, and Lieutenant Laughton, Sub-Assistant Commissary General.

The services of Assistant Surgeon Gamack will be at your disposal, should you require the aid of his experience on the Settlement.

The Executive Engineer, Lieutenant Cumming, will be directed to accompany you whenever you may require his professional opinion as regards the advisability of extending any of the sites of the existing Settlements.

The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent will be requested to give you any aid in their power, and assemble the prisoners when you require.

You are requested so to arrange as not to delay the submission of your report beyond the 1st proximo.

No. 444, dated 2nd May, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that Surgeon Rean having assumed charge as Senior Medical Officer of this Settlement, it is evidently proper as he is senior in the Army to Surgeon Cowie, that he should assume the Presidentship of the Committee which is now sitting, to report on sanitary and other matters, for the purpose of advising the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah.

Surgeon Cowie having proceeded so far into the several enquiries, it will be necessary to retain his services, in order that the advantage of the experience and information he has

acquired be not lost. Surgeon Cowie will, therefore, remain on the Committee as a Member, and Lieutenant Laughton may be relieved ; but it will be necessary that Lieutenant Laughton be warned to attend the Committee, and give any information the Committee may require.

No. 445, dated 2nd May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—SURGEON A. J. COWIE.

Surgeon Rean having been appointed here from the Supreme Government as Senior Medical Officer to this Settlement, and as he is senior in Army rank to yourself, it will be proper that he assume the duties of President of the Committee now sitting to report on several matters for the information of the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah. But inasmuch as you have gained considerable experience and information while sitting as President of the Committee, I have to make, as a special request on behalf of the Chief Commissioner, that you will consent to afford your aid to the Committee as a Member, in order that the information already acquired may not be lost. I have, in anticipation to your consent to this arrangement, relieved Lieutenant Laughton, and request you will communicate freely with Surgeon Rean your views on the several questions under discussion, and render every assistance in your power for the prosecution of the object in view.

No. 446, dated 2nd May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction, to state that the arrival of Surgeon Rean as Senior Medical Officer of this Settlement has rendered it necessary, (as he is also senior in Army rank) that he should assume the Presidency of the Committee of which you are Member ; and as the duties of Member will now devolve upon Surgeon Cowie, you are relieved of your duties as Member, but you will be good enough to afford every information on any points the Committee may require your opinion and advice.

In informing you of the above changes, I beg to tender you, in the name of the Chief Commissioner, Colonel Fytche's best thanks for the services you have rendered the Committee.

No. 447, dated the 2nd May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Senior Medical Officer, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to state that as you have been appointed to relieve Surgeon Cowie as Senior Medical Officer at the Settlement, and as you are Senior to Surgeon Cowie in Army rank, I consider it necessary that you should assume the Presidency of the Committee which is now sitting, to consider several matters upon which the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah is desirous of having advice.

2. I have, therefore, in communication with the Superintendent, appointed you as President in room of Surgeon Cowie.

3. As Surgeon Cowie, in the course of the several inquiries which have been instituted, has obtained considerable information, it is desirable he should continue on the Committee ; and he will, therefore, become a Member in the room of Lieutenant Laughton.

4. Lieutenant Laughton will, however, be available to afford any information the Committee may require.

5. The Committee, of which you now assume the Presidency, is not altogether a Sanitary Committee ; as owing to the paucity of officers here, it was advisable to have one Committee, therefore some questions will come before you of a more general nature.

Regarding the several points on which I have as yet solicited the opinion of the Committee, I beg to refer you to my letters to the address of the President as under :—

329 of 20th April,	Appointing the Committee.
" " "	Medical return for last year.
336 of 22nd "	Forwards specimen of rice, and asks for report.
337 " "	Forwards list of vegetables capable of being raised in these Settlements.
345 of 23rd "	Regarding supply of water on Ross Island.
347 of 22nd "	Regarding supply of nga-pee for Burmese prisoners.
352 of 23rd "	*1st.* regarding supply of fish ; *2nd*, regarding clothing.
355 of 23rd "	Regarding cost of meat.
361 of 24th "	Regarding copper deckchees.
394 of 26th "	Forwards voluminous correspondence about Port Mouat.
373 of 25th "	Regarding clearing and cultivated ground.
395 of 27th "	Regarding scurvy.
407 of 29th "	Regarding convict clothing.
429 of 29th "	Regarding supply of fish for Sappers.
435 of 30th "	Forwards further information about Port Mouat.

Dated 2nd May, 1867.

From—Surgeon W H Rean, *Senior Medical Officer, and President, Sanitary Committee, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

As the subject now under consideration of the Committee of which I am President is the occupation of Port Mouat, and as it is essential that I should be conversant with the features, both natural and artificial of that station, it is my intention, with the other Members of the Committee and Dr. Gamack, whom I have invited to accompany us, to visit Port Mouat to-morrow, and, on our return, we will proceed with our report.

No. 454, dated 2nd May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Senior Medical Officer, and President, Sanitary Committee, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, and in reply to state that I consider it very desirable that you should thoroughly inspect Port Mouat and all the minor Settlements connected therewith, and obtain complete information regarding that locality; for it is above all things necessary that a comparison should be made between that portion of the Island and Settlements more adjacent to Head Quarters.

All things being equal, the nearer we are the base of our operations the better: this will be demonstrated to you by the Commissariat Officer. The quality of the soil also will require to be noted, and eventually compared with that of other places. I mention these points, because the Supreme Government have directed the attention of the Officer appointed to report on this question to economic considerations, which should be reviewed when, coming to a decision as to the abandonment of the westerly Settlements, or, if retained in what strength they should be retained, I have addressed the Superintendent to provide your party with a proper boat; and if you desire that the Assistant Superintendent should accompany you, Lieut.-Colonel Ford will, no doubt, arrange according to your wish.

No. 456, dated 2nd May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to acquaint you that Surgeon Rean is desirous to inspect Port Mouat and the minor Settlements connected therewith to-morrow. I have to request you will be good enough to provide Surgeon Rean and the Officers of the Committee of which he is the President, and who accompany him, with a suitable boat. Should the services of the Assistant Superintendent be required on that occasion, I request you will kindly arrange for Captain Fraser to accompany Surgeon Rean.

No. 472, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—Major H N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Senior Medical Officer and President, Sanitary Committee, Port Blair.

I am directed by the Chief Commissioner to make the following remarks:—

1*st.*—Although several of the subjects submitted to your Committee were discussed, and certain conclusions arrived at, before you assumed the office of President, it will be necessary that you pass the several questions in review, and record your own opinion thereon.

2*nd.*—Selected as you have been, by the Supreme Government, for the responsible position of advising the Superintendent of this Settlement, on many important matters connected with the welfare of the numerous body of prisoners under the Superintendent's control, and considering you will, as Senior Medical Officer of the Settlement, have more or less to deal with the particular subjects the Committee have to discuss, I feel that it would be very unsatisfactory to Government were the present opportunity lost, by my not taking advantage and obtaining the benefit of your advice on subjects regarding which Government are solicitous of having the best information and advice obtainable.

3*rd*—It will therefore be necessary that you go into each subject placed before the Committee, and record your views for the guidance of the Chief Commissioner and for the information of Government.

No. 473, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Senior Medical Officer and President, Sanitary Committee, Port Blair.

Before a final decision is arrived at regarding the continuance of the Port Mouat Settlement, it would be as well that a clear understanding should be come to regarding the direction in which the extension of Settlements on this side the Island should take.

2. It is, I believe, the general opinion of those who have travelled over the valley which extend from Aberdeen to Navy Bay that it contains some of the most promising soil on the Port Blair side. It has been stated also that the opening out of a tract of country in the

direction indicated, would be advantageous in a sanitary point of view to Aberdeen, and even to Ross Island, as the commencement of a channel for the south-west bund to pass through which would eventually be enlarged as cultivators increased; however this may be, both from a military point of view, as well as for Commissariat purposes, there are particular advantages in occupying the position indicated above.

3. It has been stated that the station of Aberdeen from some cause or another has not proved a healthy one, but South Point, which is in close contact with the sea, might prove more favorable. Regarding the cause which makes Aberdeen unhealthy, it is supposed that two swamps contribute much towards this unfavorable result. One of these swamps lies somewhat easterly off Aberdeen (between Aberdeen and South Point); the other is called Phœnix Bay mangrove swamp, and lies in the full course of the south-west winds. The bunding of both these swamps has been commenced with the view of retaining fresh water to the exclusion of salt water, by which operation the mangrove will be killed, and in course of time the ground, which is now a swamp pregnant with malaria, will become sweet and fruitful. The bund over the swamp in the direction of Phœnix Bay may be said to be completed, as it only requires that sluice gates be put up, but it is impossible to find out when the bund across the swamp easterly of Aberdeen will be finished. At the least it will be two years before both swamps can be made available for cultivation. During this period it appears to me Aberdeen should be occupied cautiously, but South Point might be tried as a station if the Committee think it advisable.

4. With reference to the sanitary state of Aberdeen hitherto, I enclose an extract from a letter from Lieut. Colonel Ford, to the address of the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, No 214 of 6th March last. From a perusal of para. 3, you will observe that your predecessor Dr. Morton reported favorably of the effect produced at Aberdeen by the bunding off of two swamps there. The two bunds reported on by Dr. Morton, it will be advisable the Committee should inspect. With reference to their position in regard to Aberdeen, the direction the currents of wind take and so forth, some idea may be formed of what effect is likely to be produced when the other bunds already referred to are completed. What I should suggest is that your Committee visit Aberdeen and inspect closely the prisoners there stationed—their habitations and the position of them—and also enquire as to what their ordinary subsistence consists of, especially as regards meat, fish, and vegetables, and also as to what further assistance can be given in the way of spirits or sandals, and leggings to protect their feet and legs from abrasions.

No. 1, dated 6th May, 1867.

From—Surgeon W. H. R[illegible]n, *President, Sanitary Committee, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor, in reply to the last paragraph of your letter No. 473, soliciting, if I agree in the advisability of inquiring into the two points you suggest under the fourth head of the same letter, to state that it will be no doubt for the advantage of the Settlement if the Committee proceed to Aberdeen, inspect the station, and examine the condition of the prisoners there, their diet, clothing, &c.; but at the same time I would observe that both of the questions will come before the Committee, and have to be reported on, as concerns the Settlement generally.

I shall also, as you desire, visit with the Executive Engineer and other members of the Committee, the bunding operations you referred to, and furnish you with our opinion as to the advisability of their being pushed on, and their influence on the health of the Settlement.

No. 375, dated 25th April, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state I have noticed that the self-supporting Burmese are few in number in this Settlement, and the Burmese prisoners here appear to labor under peculiar disadvantages.

2. The language, which is different from that spoken by the trans-marine convicts who arrive from India, is not generally known to the Officers of this Settlement. The Post Office is an institution not made use of, thus their means of communication with their relatives is difficult.

3. It may be that the number of escapes which take place among the convicts of this class, arise principally from the absence of their families. Burmese, as a rule, are less capable of supporting themselves separate from their families than Natives of India.

4 The Burmese being proverbially an improvident race, I could understand the difficulty prisoners of that class would labor under in accumulating sufficient means to become self-supporters

5. If what appears to be in force here, is allowed for convicts from India, that is to receive assistance from their friends, special means should be taken to communicate this knowledge to the Burmese prisoners.

6. Probably, the Burmese race would prove more beneficial here than any class of convicts from India; moreover, they would never give up their wives to prostitution. The

climate, soil, and productions, approaches nearly to many parts of Burmah, and it seems worthy of consideration, if it be desired to carry a colonization concurrently with penal arrangements here, that some special means should be adopted for encouraging the wives of Burmese convicts to accompany their husbands, specially those of the Toungya or hill-cultivating class. I believe, under proper arrangements, they would be more willing to do so than the wives of Natives of India. I request your consideration and report on this subject.

No. 47, dated 27th April, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 375 of the 25th instant, in which you observe, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, that the self-supporting Burmese convicts are few in number in this Settlement, and appear to labor under very peculiar disadvantages.

In reply I beg to inform you that the total number of Burmese prisoners on the Settlement is 206, and the number of self-supporters 15, or 7½ per cent.

I am not aware of any disadvantages that the Burmese labor under; certainly no application from any Burman for permission to become a self-supporter has, so far as I can remember, ever been refused by me.

2. It is true that their language is not generally known to the officers of the Settlement. But I may mention that both the late and the present Senior Medical Officer and myself are acquainted with it; and the whole of the Burmese convicts here *know very well* that they can always obtain a hearing for any reasonable representation they may have to make. As a rule, I find that, instead of letter-writing, they generally prefer sending messages to their friends in Burmah by any chance opportunity offering. Sometimes they write by "kattoos" or by private hands. Captain Duncan, Inspector General of Police, British Burmah, for instance, recently, at my request, conveyed some letters to the relatives of convicts in Burmah, whoses homes in that country were out of the lines of postal communication. All the Burmese convicts here know well that they have only to come to my office to get any letter forwarded by me for them.

3. I do not consider that Burmese convicts endeavor to make their escape so much on account of their absence from their families as from their natural boldness of character, which makes them think light of the difficulties attendant on their endeavors again to reach their native country; for I do not think, referring to what I have said previously in this letter, that Burmese convicts have thought that I would ever refuse to make them self-supporters, if likely to be of benefit to the Settlement, even though they might not have accumulated means to become self-supporters. Convicts on the Settlement never receive assistance by any cash remittance from their friends elsewhere in any *direct* way. What they may receive in that respect, must come surreptitiously or without my knowledge. Some of those who are shop-keepers, may perhaps receive assistance in the purchase or supply of *goods* sent to them here for sale.

There would be no objection to the Burmese similarly, and under existing conditions, receiving supplies, if self-supporters exercising trade, &c. The Burmese must know this, as well as other convicts.

4. I certainly consider that it would be advisable that some of the Burmese should, under local rules, have their families here with them. Such a measure might tend as you suggest towards the prevention of escape,—especially the Burmese of "Toungya" or hill-cultivating class—would be very useful here. The rule that I have, with the sanction of Government established here, is not to allow convicts to have their families from India, until they have been three years on the Settlement; but if the Chief Commissioner should think fit, for special reasons, to relax this rule, I would propose, in view of your suggestion, that special means should be adopted for encouraging the wives of Burmese convicts to accompany their husbands; and on receipt of his orders to that effect, to submit for his consideration a list of all Burmese on the Settlement desiring that their wives and children be permitted to join them. I would beg to call your attention to my letter No. 40 of the 15th July, 1864, and to the correspondence connected therewith as per margin, in which I forwarded a list of 33 Burmese, who were desirous of having their families with them. I purpose to submit a fresh list for the Chief Commissioner's consideration.

No. 492 of the 6th October, 1864, from the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

No. 117 of the 25th February, 1865, from the Superintendent of Port Blair, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

No 1156 of 17th August, 1865, from the Home Secretary, to the Chief Commissioner.

No 154 of the 24th October, 1865, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, from the Superintendent.

No. 530, dated 7th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, with reference to your letter No. 47, dated 27th ultimo, to state that it appears to me that it would be more satisfactory

if some systematised plan were arranged for enabling Burmese prisoners to communicate with their relatives in writing.

2. To expect the Burmese to make use of our postal system for years to come is hopeless: they do not recognise the institution, and if they did, the organization of our postal communication in British Burmah is not so perfect, as to ensure letters being delivered to poor Burmese in villages off the more important lines of thoroughfare, and the postal authorities would, as a last resort, have to make use of the Civil authorities.

3 It seems to me possible to arrange the matter thus:—Every muster day letters might be collected from those Burmese desirous of writing to their homes; these letters might be endorsed under your frank to the Commissioners of Arracan, Pegu, or Tenasserim, who would forward them to the Deputy Commissioners of their districts for disposal as per address, and would receive replies and post them to you.

4 The Burmese Court writers could do all the writing that was required, and keep a list of letters received and sent; that would suffice.

5. All this is simple enough; but the real difficulty appears to me to be in collecting and delivering the letters here, for one hears so much of the corruption of the place that one is staggered lest a new door for oppression be opened. I do not consider that it would do for the toledars or prisoner gangsmen to have anything to do with such a matter I would be much obliged if you could solve the problem as to how letters from Burmese prisoners can be received from them, and the replies delivered here, without the intervention of gangsmen, when I will submit the scheme for the Chief Commissioner's consideration.

No. 124, dated 8th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No 530 of the 7th instant in which, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, and with reference to my letter No 47 of the 27th ultimo, you state that it would be more satisfactory if some systematic plan were arranged for enabling Burmese prisoners to communicate with their relatives in writing. You remark that it is hopeless to expect them at present to make use of our postal system. You recommend that letters should be collected every muster-day, and you anticipate that, if gangsmen collected these letters, that a door for oppression would be opened, and that, therefore, such gangsmen should not have anything to do with such matter.

2. You ask me, therefore, to solve the problem as to how letters from Burmese prisoners can be received from them, and the replies of their friends delivered here to them without the intervention of such gangsmen.

3. I would now beg to report, for the Chief Commissioner's information, that I have had upwards of 100 men of the Burmese division with me this morning; and, in reply to my question, they have stated that they have no difficulties to complain of as regards transmission and receipt of letters. They, one and all, loudly declared that they had suffered no oppression whatever at the hands of their gangsmen, (who are their own countrymen), either in respect of forwarding or receiving letters, and they were quite satisfied with the existing arrangements

4 However, to make sure in this matter, I asked them if they would like to give me their letters for transmission, and for me to receive letters for them from their friends: to this they replied that they would do so if I wished it. I then informed them that I would at any time receive and forward letters for any man that brought me one for such a purpose, and that they might bring their letters to me at my quarters, or give them to me whenever they meet me. This will, I hope, solve the problem in a manner satisfactory to the Chief Commissioner. I will forward all letters so delivered to me in the manner indicated in para. 3 of your communication, and I shall be happy to receive and personally to deliver any letters franked to me by the several Commissioners of British Burmah.

No. 540, dated 8th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state, that I understand from the Assistant Superintendent that the rule in force as regards self-supporters is that each individual shall declare his trade, and stick to that and nothing else. In a general sense this principle appears at first sight correct, but practically as far as I am able to learn, it does not work well. I understand, if a self-supporting cultivator purchases a cow from the Aberdeen model farm, he is only allowed to use the produce of it, that is the milk for the benefit of his own family, the ostensible object being to enable prisoners who keep cows to gain a livelihood, or, in other words, monopolise that particular branch of trade.

Similarly, a self-supporting shop-keeper may keep fowls for his own use, but not for sale, lest he interfere with the trade of the fowl merchant. Now, in a place like this where much disease and debility is generated from the absence of animal food by reason of its price being beyond the means of convicts, it would seem the preferable policy (to say of humanity) were the fullest license given to all and every one to produce whatever he was capable of rearing, so that ultimately such articles as pork, milk, eggs fowls, and so on should be brought within the

reach of prisoners ; but the present system militates entirely against the principle of development and for no good that I can trace, except to keep up the price of many of the necessaries of life for the advantage of the few to the manifest injury of the many. I solicit your earnest consideration of this subject, and your report as to whether it would not be advisable to reverse entirely the present restrictive system and introduce free trade in its fullest sense ; this need not interfere with the salutary rule of making a self-supporter, having some ostensible employment the just performance of which should be rigidly exacted.

No. 169, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 540, of the 8th instant, in which, remarking upon self-supporters, you mention that you understand from the Assistant Superintendent that the rule in force as regards those plying trades is, that they should declare and stick to such a trade and nothing else. You remark that, in a general sense, the principle appears at first sight correct, but practically, as far as you are able to learn, it does not work well. You request my earnest consideration on this subject, and a report as to whether it would not be advisable to reverse the present restricting system, and to introduce free trade in its fullest sense.

2. In reply I have the honor to state that, on experience of this Settlement, I have found that, as a rule for a man to have more than one occupation in trade is not salutary,—thus, for instance, I have found specially amongst cultivators that a man who had a cow or a fowl or two, by the sale of whose milk or eggs, he could realize two annas a day, would leave his land entirely neglected, and by any subterfuge, (if necessary even feigning sickness) would do nothing. I might multiply instances of this sort of thing, but the above will perhaps suffice to explain the reason why I have felt it necessary to make each self-supporter stick to his trade, and for fairness' sake also have not let him trench on that of his neighbour. It has all along been my desire to see self-supporters, cultivators especially, with a little variety of thriving farm stock about each of their holdings, but the too sure consequences of such a state of things, as I have above described, has almost inevitably followed on indulgences experimentally given in this way.

3 There cannot be a doubt, however, as to the advantages that would result to the health and well-being of the Settlement, were a greater amount of animal food obtainable at reasonable prices, and it may be now that we have so largely extended our cultivation operations more practicable to give freer licenses to convicts who have land holdings to rear farm stock, even though their field labor might be occasionally unsatisfactory, for by comparison stock will thrive and multiply almost without tending, whereas the cultivator's land to produce aught must be tilled at least with a fair diligence.

4 In view of all that you have said on the subject, I beg to say that I will experimentally enlarge the rules as applying to convicts in the respects that you note, in the hope that such step may be attended with some good and plentiful results.

No. 356, dated 23rd April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request you will favor me with a return in the annexed form, showing the number of self-supporting who have resigned on being reduced from their position, or deprived of their allotments, and the causes for such deprivation.

NAME	Date of application of self-supporter.	Date of ceasing to be a self-supporter.	For what cause he ceased to be a self-supporter

No. 59, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor, with reference to your Memorandum marked 356 of the 23rd April, 1867, to forward herewith a return in the form given of the number of self-supporting cultivators who have resigned or been reduced from their position, or deprived of their allotments.

Statement showing those self-supporting Cultivators who have left their cultivations or removed, or lands taken away from them from 1862 to 1867.

Name	Date when permitted to become a self-supporter.	Description of Trade plied by	Date when remanded to labor.	Cause why remanded.
Labeem ...	21st Dec 1863	Cultivator of paddy...	12th Nov. 1863	Remanded to labor for a crime of escape.
Ghaseo ..	31st July 1865	Ditto ...	24th May 1866	Died.
Chundroo .	1st Aug. 1862	Ditto ...	17th Oct. 1865	Remanded to labor for a crime of "theft"
Heydyath Ally ...	Ditto ..	Ditto ...	9th Feb. 1866	Remanded to labor for having found in his possession intoxicating drugs, and assault.
Golam Hossem ..	Ditto ...	Ditto ..	8th Feb. 1866	Remanded to labor for a crime of escape.
Golam ...	31st July 1866	Ditto ...	28th July 1866	Admitted in the invalid gang under medical report.
Gowra Mundul ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	31st Aug. 1866	This man received plots of land for cultivation and wages for ten months; but on account of scarcity of men for Engineer's work, he was remanded to labor, as his cultivation was not good.
Syed Khan .	Ditto ...	Ditto .	25th Oct. 1866	Admitted in the invalid gang under medical report.
Bungshee ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ..	31st Aug. 1866	This man received plots of land for cultivation and wages for ten months; but on account of scarcity of men for Engineer's work, he was remanded to labor, as his work was unsatisfactory.
Jummayet ...	Ditto .	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
Buddree Dosa ...	24th Nov. 1865	Ditto ..	Ditto ...	Ditto.
Sawa ...	2nd May 18[illegible]	Ditto	17th July 1866	Died
Munhae ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ...	8th Dec 1866	Remanded to labor for a crime of escape.
Dhokaloo ...	31st Aug. 1864	Ditto ..	31st Aug 1866	On account of scarcity of men for Engineer's work, he was remanded to labor.
Parain Chund ...	Ditto ..	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
Mundho Bhagthee ...	Ditto	Ditto ...	Ditto ..	Ditto.
Esur Bhagthee ...	Ditto ..	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
Juggoo Pardha ...	30th June 1866	Ditto ...	9th March 1867	Died.
Candapah	Ditto ..	Ditto ...	31st Aug. 1866	On account of scarcity of men for Engineer's work, he was remanded to labor.
Jowahir ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ...	Ditto ..	Ditto.
Khettur Hazra ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ..	Ditto ...	Ditto.
Ramchurn Roy ...	3rd June 1866	Ditto ...	.....	Ditto.
Khodabux ...	27th Oct 1863	Cultivator of vegetables.	15th Nov. 1864	Become boatman in the 9th Division on his own application
Russooloodeen .	11th July 1864	Ditto ...	31st Aug 1866	On account of scarcity of men for Engineer's work, he was remanded to labor.
Sadhik Sindee ...	18th Sept. 1862	Ditto ...	31st July 1863	Became handsman on his own application.
Baoodh Ram ..	2nd Jan. 1864	Ditto ..	15th Nov. 1864	Became boatman on the 9th Division on his own application.
Shew Ganesh	1st Dec. 1862	Ditto ...	2nd May 1863	Died.
Biss Ram ...	Ditto ..	Ditto ...	15th Nov. 1864	Became boatman in the 9th Division on his own application.
Shadee Khan ...	3rd Oct. 1863	Ditto ...	1st Feb. 1864	Became gangsman in the 9th Division on his own application.
Koodiah ...	9th Oct. 1863	Ditto ..	15th Nov. 1864	Became boatman in the 9th Division on his own application.

Statement showing those self-supporting Cultivators who have left their cultivations or removed, or lands taken away from them from 1862 *to* 1867.—(Continued.)

Name.	Date when permitted to become a self-supporter.	Description of Trade plied by	Date when remanded to labor.	Cause why remanded.
Sutha ...	3rd Dec. 1862	Cultivator of vegetatables.	12th July 1863	Died.
Khoda Bux ...	2nd Feb. 1863	Ditto ...	16th June 1863	Ditto.
Khoda Bux ...	20th July 1863	Ditto ..	18th Jan. 1864	Suspicion of abetting in the crime of murder; he was remanded to hard labor in irons.
Mahabeer ..	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ..	Ditto.
Purbhoodeen ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ..	26th Aug. 1863	Died.
Azath ...	3rd Dec. 1862	Ditto ...	1st July 1863	Ditto.
Hyder Ally ...	27th Nov. 1862	Ditto ...	2nd Jan. 1862	Went to labor on his own application.
Tuttooah ...	6th Oct. 1862	Ditto ...	29th July 1863	Died.
Muddhoo Sing ...	Ditto ..	Ditto ...	9th May 1863	Ditto.
Guggen ...	15th Nov. 1865	Ditto ...	31st Aug. 1866	On account of scarcity of men for Engineer's work, he was remanded to labor.
Dussodee ..	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
Juggerdonath ...	9th June 1863	Ditto ...	14th Oct. 1863	Died.
Gunesh ...	9th Jan. 1863	Ditto ...	3rd June 1863	Ditto.
Richoo Sheik ...	9th May 1863	Ditto ...	11th Sept. 1863	Died.
Muggerasha ...	4th May 1863	Ditto ...	5th August 1863	Ditto.
Uttersing ..	2nd March 1863	Ditto ...	25th August 1863	Remanded to labor for a crime of escape.
Chundroo ...	2nd May 1864	Ditto ...	17th August 1864	Became carpenter on his own application.
Mara ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	29th May 1865	Ditto.
Golam Hossein ...	Ditto ..	Ditto ..	3rd April 1866	Remanded to labor for a crime of cheating.
Kurpun ...	1st Dec. ..	Ditto ...	25th April 1865	Became toledar on his own application.
Chundroo ...	2nd May 1864	Ditto ...	31st August 1866	On account of scarcity of men for Engineer's work, he was remanded to labor.
Ingappan ...	Ditto ..	Ditto ...	6th June 1866	Remanded to labor for harboring escaped prisoners.
Shamut Khan ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	31st August 1866	On account of scarcity of men for Engineer's work, he was remanded to labor.
Koolia ...	26th January 1865	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
Nowring ...	1st March 1864	Ditto ...	6th June 1866	Remanded to labor for harboring escaped prisoners.
Bullie ...	2nd May 1864	Ditto ...	31st August 1866	On account of scarcity of men for Engineer's work, he was remanded to labor.
Gopee Mohun ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
Bussunt ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
Sookra ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
Chuckerbutty ...	Ditto ..	Ditto ...	Ditto .	Ditto.
Chabrogh ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	26th July 1866	Remanded to labor for receiving stolen property.
Nuferdome ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	31st August 1866	On account of scarcity of men for Engineer's work, he was remanded to labor.
Ghassee	1st Dec. 1862	Ditto ...	22nd October 1865	Released.
Doolla ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	7th August 1864	Became carpenter on his own application.
Meera Majee ..	Ditto ..	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
Poorun Chowdry ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
Lutchman ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ..	19th July 1864	Ditto.
Hoobun ...	Ditto ..	Ditto ...	17th August 1864	Died.
Peerbux ...	1st Dec. 1862	Ditto ..	17th Aug. 1865	Became carpenter on his own application.
Ayee China ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	30th March 1865	Self-cultivators on their own application.
Akee China ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	17th May 1862	Self-cultivators on their own application.
Julla Shaw ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	20th Oct. 1865	Died.
Jooalla ..	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	17th Aug. 1864	Became carpenter on his own application.

Statement showing those self-supporting Cultivators who have left their cultivations or removed, or lands taken away from them from 1862 *to* 1867—(Concluded.)

NAME.	Date when permitted to become a self-supporter.	Description of Trade plied by	Date when remanded to labor.	Cause why remanded.
Holasee ...	1st Dec. 1862	Cultivators of vegetables.	27th Nov. 1864	Went to labor on his own application.
Magagree ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	7th July 1864	Ditto.
Buldeo ..	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	7th May 1866	Remanded to labor for a crime of escape and attempt to commit suicide.
Dance Jama ...	2nd May 1864	Ditto ...	31st Aug. 1866	On account of scarcity of men for Engineer's work, he was remanded to labor.
Bullay ...	Ditto ..	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Admitted in the invalid gang under medical report.
Radel Lall ...	11th Sept. 1863	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
Shew Juggut ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	19th Jan. 1863	Transferred to Sarawak for guard duty there.
Daoeedeen ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	31st Aug. 1866	On account of scarcity of men for Engineer's work, he was remanded to labor.
Juddue ...	1st Jany. 1866	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.

(Signed) B. FORD, LIEUT.-COLONEL,
Superintendent, Port Blair.

PORT BLAIR,
29th April, 1867.

No. 477, dated 4th May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to enquire whether, when self-supporters are deprived of their privileges, and their houses taken from them, there is any judicial enquiry made, and if not, whether it would not be advisable there should be one.

No. 103, dated 4th May, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 477 of this day's date, in reply to an enquiry as to whether, when self-supporters are deprived of their privileges, and their houses are taken away from them, there is any judicial enquiry made. In reply, the undersigned begs to state that, if the cricumstances under which it is necessary to deprive a self-supporter of this indulgence are such as to need judicial enquiry, the enquiry is held by the Assistant Superintendent. On the other hand, if the Superintendent for reasons good to himself considers it right to deprive a convict of this indulgence without judicial enquiry, such deprivation is recorded in his office order book, and the reason is assigned.

The Assistant Superintendent does not deprive any self-supporters of such position, without reference to, and confirmation by, the undersigned.

No. 40, dated 27th April, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to forward attached a printed copy of the Settlement rules respecting hire of convicts in lieu of that submitted with letter as per margin, which was indistinct.

No. 29.

The Superintendent notifies below, for general information, the terms under which the convicts will be supplied for hire as servants to the Officers of the Settlement, Free Residents, and others :—

	No. allowed.	Remarks.
Superintendent	Not limited.	Convict servants to be invariably engaged from the 1st of the month ; and as the convict's subsistence is payable in advance by Government, the employers must similarly deposit the convict's pay at the Superintendent's Office each month in advance in the same way. In addition to the above, a monthly fee of Re. 1 to Government will be charged to all employers of convicts. No broken period will be allowed.
Superintending Surgeons ...	6 each.	
Commanding Officers, Civil Officers, Chaplains, and Captains	5 "	
Subalterns and Assistant Surgeons	4 "	Convicts employed as servants are to be paid as directed above, in the same rates as those sanctioned for their subsistence in the divisional grades they are taken from. No fining is to be allowed from the above subsistence.
Subordinate Head of Offices and free Overseers	3 "	
Warrant Officers	3 "	
Apothecaries	3 "	Employers are not prohibited from adding a small allowance to deserving servants in their employment, in addition to their subsistence as provided above. This should not exceed Rs. 3 per month.
Free Tradesmen	3 "	
Staff, Medical, Marine, and other Government free clerks; and convicts who are 1st class bazar tradesmen ...	2 "	To pay half the wages of the convict who will be supplied from the third class only, Government paying the other half. Fining also prohibited.
Convict overseers and others in similar situations, Native free dressers ...	2 "	
Native Christian convicts, division gangsmen, and married self-supporters	1 "	

No convict services will be given unless conveniently to be spared. Field and garden labor will be supplied, if available, at 2½ annas per diem per man.

Each Government Officer (not having a boat's-crew or office orderlies) will be allowed three parawallahs (convicts) free of charge.

B. FORD, LIEUT-COLONEL,
Superintendent of Port Blair.

No. 409, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, with reference to your letter No. 29 and your Memo. No. 40, dated 27th instant, forwarding a scale for the hiring of convict servants in this Settlement, to submit for your consideration a revised scale.

2. The undersigned notices, in the population return for Ross Island, that there are 165 servants employed ; this appears an almost disproportionate number to the free inhabitants of the place, and the loss of their convict labor to Government, without adequate payment, must be very great.

3. In the last para. where the words " each Government Officer," &c., occur, will you be good enough to specify what Officers are allowed three orderlies, and why one would not suffice ? and who are the Officers entitled to boat's-crew or office orderlies ?

No. 69, dated 1st May, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 409 of the 29th ultimo, forwarding for his consideration a revised scale for the hiring of the convict servants in this Settlement, with reference to which he begs to remark as under.

1*st.* That the Superintendent should be limited in the number of convicts that he may desire to hire. It is to be presumed that the Superintendent would not unduly avail himself of his position to hire more than he might feel himself entitled to engage.

2. " Superintending Surgeons—4." It is recommended that this be altered to " Superintending Surgeons and Assistant Superintendents" to six convicts at old rates.

3. It is recommended that Native Christian convicts, division gangsmen, and married self-supporters be allowed convicts servants as heretofore at half rates, provided that the individuals supplied them are convicts of the invalid gang.

4. In all other alterations that you propose, I quite concur.

5. With reference to your para. 3, the undersigned begs to state the undermentioned Officers are allowed three orderlies :—

Assistant Superintendent, Senior Surgeon. } I do not think, in view of the varied duties and local correspondence that these Officers have to attend to, that they could do with less attendance.

The undermentioned Officers are entitled to boat's crew :—

Assistant Superintendent.	Commissariat Officer.
Senior Surgeon.	Harbour Master.
Executive Engineer.	Chaplain.
Assistant Surgeon.	

And the undermentioned Officers to two Office orderlies :—

Commanding Officer.	Commissariat Officer.
Executive Engineer.	Assistant Engineer.

No. 485, dated 14th May, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Assistant Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request he may be supplied with a memo. of the number of servants, orderlies, boats' crew, gardeners, parawallahs, &c., in the employment of each officer or individual on whatever account throughout the Settlement on 1st May, 1867.

2. The servants, &c, paid for by Government should be shown.

3. And those paid for by individuals, with the rate paid to each, should be entered.

No. 525, dated 6th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Assistant Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will furnish me with two returns for each station in the Settlement, shewing on 1st May current :—

1*st.*—The distribution of prisoners.

2*nd.*—The occupation of self-supporters.

No. 1.

Disposition Return shewing occupation and return of prisoners actually present at each station (excluding self-supporters and self-supporters in hospital), on 1st May, 1867.

Occupation alphabetically arranged.	No. of Division to which they belong.	Ross Island, Chatham, Viper, Aberdeen, &c							Total of each class of occupation in the entire Settlement.
		No. of prisoners and their wives and children.							
		Males.	Females.	Convicts.	Children.				

No. 2.

Return shewing the several occupations of the Self-supporters at the Station of 1st May, 1867.

No. of Division.	Description of occupation	No. of Self-supporters including those in Hospital.		Remarks.
		Males.	Females.	

I request the above return may be sent in at latest by Thursday evening.

No. 21, dated 12th May, 1867.

From—Captain the Hon'ble J. H. Fraser, *Assistant Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

In reply to your memo. No. 485 of the 4th instant, and your letter No. 525 of the 7th instant, I have the honor to forward herewith the forms called for in those documents.

I regret that, owing to the difficulty of preparing these returns without reference to out-stations, I have been prevented from sending them in sooner.

No. 368, dated 25th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

The undersigned has the honor to enquire what are the rules under which convict shop-keepers procure private supplies from abroad. Passes are given to certain parties who proceed to Rangoon and purchase supplies; but how do the convict shop-keepers procure supplies from Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay? Please forward a copy of any written rules there may be on this subject, or explanation how it is managed.

No. 68, dated 30th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

With reference to the Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 368 of the 25th instant, enquiring what the rules are under which convict shop-keepers procure supplies from abroad, and applying for any written rules there may be on the subject, and explain how it is managed, the undersigned has the honor to forward enclosed extracts from his proposed code of rules for this Settlement which bear upon the subject. Paras. 14, 15, and 16 are in force; para. 17 awaits the approval of Government.

2. It should be mentioned that self-supporters, who have obtained supplies from India by vessels conveying convicts, the whole freight of which has not been taken up by Government, have, in most instances, been charged freight by the owners or Captains for such tonnage as they had passage for,—now and then an instance has occurred of a Captain declining to make any charge.

Free freight allowed.

14. On their first start, they will be allowed, on the application of the Superintendent to Master Attendants of Indian Ports, small grants of free freights (of a ton or so) when the same can be conveniently allowed on convict ships or Government vessels visiting this Settlement on duty. They will then import for sale such articles as piece goods, haberdashery, oilman's, chandler's, and grocer's stores, stationery, clothing, boots and shoes, hard crockery and glass-wares, pottery, tobacco, betel and condiments in Native use, and other miscellaneous goods that are of a character likely to be useful, more particularly to the free community of the Settlement.

Manner of landing goods consigned to convicts.

15. All goods consigned to convict shop-keepers are invariably to be landed at the jetty, and from thence conveyed to the Beach office where the cases are to be opened and the contents will be examined by the Harbour Master before delivery on pass to the Importers.

Articles landed or consigned to the Settlement without a pass to be confiscated.

16. Articles conveyed to the Settlement, either in cases by vessels visiting this Port, or in banghy parcels without a pass previously obtained from the Superintendent permitting such imports, shall be subject to confiscation, and the owners to punishment (*vide* Para. 11 of Act XXVII of 1861.)

17. Such convict shop-keepers, who can afford to pay freight for goods shipped in Government vessels from Indian ports to this Settlement, will be charged according to the following scale :—

Rate of freight

On goods over one cwt, Rs 20 per ton; draft or other cattle Rs. 10 per head.
Sheep, goats, and pigs ... ... „ 2 per head.
Poultry .. .. „ 1 per dozen.
For single packages, under one cwt. ... ... „ 2 each.

No. 459, dated 10th May, 1867

Memo from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Executive Engineer, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will favor me with a memo. showing the dimensions of the school house it is proposed to build here; and also state the gross estimated cost on every account including value of convict labor at 4 annas a day, and for what purposes it is required.

No. 75, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT W. G. CUMMING, R E., *Executive Engineer, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 549 of yesterday's date with reference to the estimated cost, &c, of the Ross Island School House to be constructed during the current year

2 The purposes for which the above school house is required are

(a) To accommodate a married school master and 24 boarders (12 boys and 12 girls). For this, accommodation is provided on the upper floor.

(b) For free European and Eurasian, free Native and Convict Schools. These schools comprise the whole of the basement story.

(c.) For the school rooms to be thrown open into one room wherein Divine Service may be held until such time as the church shall be completed.

3. I have also the honor to forward a statement showing the approximate gross estimated cost including convict labor and dimensions of the school-house building

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SCHOOL HOUSE.

Dimensions of School House for Ross Island.

Length of main building	120 feet.
Breadth	48 „
Height to tie beam of truss	28 „
Portico length	24 „
Portico breadth	16 „

These dimensions include an eight feet verandah entirely round the building.
The detailed dimensions will be as follows :—

UPPER STORY.

Married School Master's Quarters.

Bed-room	1	24′ × 16′		
Sitting-room	1	24′ × 16′		
Bath-rooms	2	8′ × 8′	In back verandah	
Store-room	1	8′ × 8′	At the corners of front verandah.	
Pantry	1	8′ × 8′		
Portico verandah	1	24′ × 16′		

12 Boys' Quarters.

Bed-room	1	32′ × 24′	
Dining-room	1	32′ × 16′	
Bath-room	1	16′ × 8′	In back verandah.
Privy	1	8′ × 8′	
Verandah	1	32′ × 8′	

12 Girls' Quarters.

Bed-room	1	32′ × 16′	
Dining-room	1	24′ × 16′	
Bath-room	1	16′ × 8′	In back verandah
Privy	1	8′ × 8′	
Verandah	1	32′ × 8′	

Basement Story.

Free European and Eurasian School	...	1	...	40′ × 32′	The whole to be used as a place for Divine Worship on Sundays, &c.
Free Native School	..	...	1	...	32′ × 32′
Convict School	... ...	...	1	..	32′ × 32′
Library	... .	...	1	...	24′ × 16′ To be used as a vestry when required.

Approximate gross estimated cost, including convict labor ... Rs. 20,500.

The original estimate is now before the Chief Engineer; and, as no copy of it is required to be kept until sanctioned, the exact estimated sum cannot be obtained in this Office, but Rs. 20,500 is within a few rupees of the estimate forwarded for sanction.

No. 562, dated 13th May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that he understands there is a School at Ross under the immediate supervision of Mr. Ashton, and to request you will favor him with a memo. showing the number of scholars who attend that school, and their ages.

No. 154, dated 13th May, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to forward a statement showing the names and ages of children as called for in your memo. No. 562 of 13th May.

Memorandum showing the number of Scholars, names and ages, who attend the Port Blair School from January 1867, up to the present date:—

No.	NAMES.	AGE.			REMARKS.
		Years.	Ms.	Days.	
1	Alice Berrill ...	7	6	19	
2	Dudley George Berrill ...	5	1	9	
3	Eliza Phipps ...	5	6	2	
4	Patrick Andrews ...	7	0	8	
5	Thomas Beeby ..	12	0	0	
6	Caroline Doughty ...	8	1	23	
7	Anne Doughty ...	5	7	7	
8	Mary Ashton ...	6	7	9	
9	Alice Ashton ...	7	10	2	
10	Thomas Ashton ...	5	7	9	
11	Thomas Whitby ...	11	8	20	
12	Eleanor Whitby ..	9	6	12	
	Francis Green ...	...	...	...	
	James Kearny ...	...	..	...	
	James Bluett ...	3	4	0	

No. 564, dated 13th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that I learn it is proposed to erect a school house here, which, the Executive Engineer informs me, will cost at least Rs. 20,500.

2. I have ascertained that the number of scholars, the sons of convicts, who now attend school, and whose ages range over seven years is ten, and in the other school, Asiatic children attending, who are the sons of free parents, is seven.

3. The present school house, which I have inspected, affords more than ample accommodation for double the present number of scholars that attend. I cannot but consider that the erection of an expensive building of the capacity proposed is not only premature, but avish, and I request that no steps be taken in the matter until instructions are received from the Chief Commissioner.

No. 158, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 564 of the 13th instant, stating that you consider that the erection of school buildings, as sanctioned by Government for this Settlement, is premature; and that you request that no steps be taken in the matter until instructions are received from the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah.

2. I have communicated your instructions as above to the Executive Engineer and Chaplain.

No 490, dated 6th May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

The undersigned has the honor to request the submission of a list of boys, sons of convicts in the convict boys' school present on the rolls on 1st May, 1867, showing names, age, race; also what the staff is, and what the sum allowed by Government or from other sources Are any fees paid?

No. 117, dated 8th May, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To— *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

In reply to the Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 490 of the 6th instant, the undersigned has the honor to forward enclosed a return of children of convict parents in the convict boys' school which will afford all the information required.

List of Children of Convicts in the Convict Boys' School present on the Roll on the 1st May 1867.

NUMBER	NAMES	AGE	SEX.	RACE.	STAFF.	SUM ALLOWED BY GOVERNMENT.	AMOUNT OF MONTHLY FEES PAID	REMARKS.
		Years.						
1	Ismile Hoosain ...	12	Male.	Mussulman.	One School Master. One Parrawallah	Rupees (50) Fifty.	None.	
2	Khaur Mahomed ...	10	Ditto	Ditto.				
3	Samboo ...	8	Ditto	Burmese.				
4	Shoay Dayee ...	6	Ditto	Ditto.				
5	Suntoojun ...	6	Ditto	Hindoo.				
6	Mookunda Rane ...	6	Ditto	Ditto.				
7	Beelatee ...	6	Ditto	Mussulman.				
8	Seeve Cherun ...	6	Ditto	Hindoo.				
9	Cader Bux ...	5	Ditto	Mussulman.				
10	Parthasarady ...	6	Ditto	Hindoo.				
11	Junglee ...	5	Ditto	Ditto.				
12	Ram Cheerun ...	5	Ditto	Ditto.				
13	Ramasawmy ...	14	Ditto	Ditto.				
14	Abdool Guffer Beg ...	4	Ditto	Mussulman.				
15	Moung Phay ...	12	Ditto	Burmese.				
16	Moung Thoung ...	10	Ditto	Ditto.				
17	Ram Singh ...	4	Ditto	Hindoo.				
18	Runga Sawmy ..	11	Ditto	Ditto.				
19	Dora Sawmy ...	9	Ditto	Ditto.				
20	Thoraty ...	7	Female.	Ditto.				
21	Joomny ...	4	Ditto	Ditto.				
22	Boothekah ...	4	Ditto	Ditto.				
23	Chundee ...	5	Ditto	Ditto.				
24	Ram Dayee ...	4	Ditto	Ditto.				
25	Peeshnoo ...	4	Ditto	Ditto.				
26	Vadatha ...	10	Ditto	Ditto.				

PORT BLAIR, *7th May*, 1867

(Signed) JOHN SOLOMON,
Settlement Asiatic Schoolmaster.

(Signed) B. FORD, *Lieut.-Colonel,*
Superintendent, Port Blair.

No. 491, dated 6th May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request the submission of list of boys in the school for Asiatic children of free parents in this Settlement on the rolls on 1st May, 1867, showing names, age, race ; also what the staff is, and the sum allowed by Government or from other sources. Are any fees paid ?

No. 118, dated 8th May, 1867.

Memo. from.—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 491 of the 6th instant, and in reply begs to forward the enclosed list of boys of free parents in the school for Asiatic children, with other information therein called for.

List of Boys in the School of Asiatic Children of Free Parents in the Settlement of Port Blair on the rolls on 1st May 1867.

NUMBER.	NAMES.	AGE.	SEX.	RACE.	STAFF.	SUM ALLOWED BY GOVERNMENT.	AMOUNT OF MONTHLY FEE PAID.			REMARKS.
		Years.					Rs.	As.	P.	
1	Shoay Thowin ..	13	Male.	Burmese.	One School Master and one Parawallah.	None.	1	0	0	Fees are paid according to parents' salaries, *i. e.*, those parents who are in receipt of salary of Rs. 20 and under, pay 8 annas for each child; above Rs. 20, 1 Rupee for each child. Also when two or more children from the same parents attend the school, the rate is six annas for each child.
2	Thadeen ...	8	Do.	Do.			1	0	0	
3	Chinna Sawmy...	16	Do.	Hindoo.			1	0	0	
4	Chengul ...	14	Do.	Do.			0	8	0	
5	Mahanum ...	12	Do.	Do.			0	8	0	
6	Abraham ...	14	Do.	Christian.			1	0	0	
7	Appa Sawmy ...	10	Do.	Hindoo.			1	0	0	
8	Unthoo ...	5	Do.	Christian.			0	8	0	

(Sd.) JOHN SOLOMON,
Setlt. Asiatic School Master.

PORT BLAIR, 7th *May*, 1867.

(Sd.) B. FORD, LIEUT.-COLONEL,
Superintendent, Port Blair.

No. 55, dated 29th April, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 161 of 21st February last, with enclosures as per margin* on the subject of Settlement Schools for the children of free residents and convicts, and beg to report, for the information of the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, that I have given my particular attention to the instructions conveyed in the letter from Government to his address No. 1214, dated 5th February, 1867.

2. I shall make it my duty to guard as much as possible against any steps likely to result in the conversion of Hindoo or Mahomedan children into Christianity through the direct agency of any Government teaching.

3. From the first it has been clearly made known to prisoners that there is no desire to interfere with the tenets of their children who may attend the schools, and I shall continue to take care to check and prevent the appearance of any such tendency.

4. I have plainly given the Chaplain to understand that he will be allowed no concern whatever in the management or care of the offsprings of Indian convicts, and have explained to him what duties are comprised in his sphere of action on this Settlement.

5. I observe that the Government have been pleased to sanction the Chief Commissioner's recommendation of the grant of Rs. 50 per mensem for books and contingent expenses in the schools for Asiatic children of convicts, and such convict adults and lads as are selected for education in the Government school.

* Sic in Copy.

No 395, dated 27th April, 1867.

From—Major H. N Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Senior Medical Officer and President, Sanitary Committee, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to inquire—

1*st.*—Is scurvy now prevalent among the prisoners, and does this disease prevail among prisoners who have been some time here, as well as recent arrivals?

2*nd*—The peculiar diseases prevalent here which require vegetable diet to mitigate them.

3*rd.*—Are such diseases numerous among the prisoners; and—

4*th.*—On the production of what descriptions of vegetables do your Committee consider attention should be especially paid, with the view of modifying scorbutic diseases.

Enclosed is a memo. of scurvy cases abstracted from the monthly medical report for the past year.

Memo. of Scurvy Cases for 1866.

		Admissions.		Deaths.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.
January	1866	18	0	0	0
February	„	27	0	1	0
March	„	17	0	2	0
April	„	45	0	3	0
May	„	34	1	4	0
June	„	22	1	2	0
July	„	12	1	1	0
August	„	9	2	1	0
September	„	2	1	0	0
October	„	6	1	0	0
November	„	5	1	0	0
December	„	2	1	0	0
	Total...	199	9	14	0
	Total of Admissions ...	208		14	

No. 536, dated 8th May, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will favor him with a memo. giving the dates on which each station at this Settlement was commenced.

No. 139, dated 11th May, 1867.

Memo. from—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned, in reply to the Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 536, dated the 8th instant, has the honor to forward the statement therein called for :—

Statement shewing the dates on which the undermentioned Settlements were opened.

Ross Island	10th March, 1858.
Aberdeen	16th April, 1858.
Chatham	10th March, 1858.
Viper	8th October, 1858.
Haddo	19th June, 1862.
Mount Harriet	28th October, 1863.
Navy Bay Point	10th November, 1865.
Command Point	10th „
Perseverance Point	10th „
Port Mouat	1st May, 1866.
South Point	August, 1865.

No. 468, dated 3rd May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that he has had submitted to him a bill for Rs. 61,579-9-1 for the month of May 1865.

I believe this bill has already been the subject of some correspondence. Before passing this bill, the Chief Commissioner has directed me to note the following items, and to request, you will state what quantity of each article was in store on 1st May 1865, what additional quantity you received during that year up to 30th April 1866. Also, should any of the items have been sold, you are requested to note the amounts realized on each item.

Copper Pots	...	Rs.	494	10	0	Beetle Nuts	...	Rs.	380	0	0
Ditto	...	„	139	2	0	Copper wire	...	„	780	0	0
Ditto	...	„	257	4	0	Large Globe Lamps.		„	216	0	0
Ditto	...	„	378	9	0	Ditto	...	„	350	0	0
Red Paint	...	„	739	8	0	Signal Lamps	...	„	476	0	0
Green Paint	...	„	688	8	0	Raisins	...	„	3,121	8	0
Linseed Oil	...	„	240	0	0	Honey	...	„	100	0	0
Grind Stones	...	„	1,248	0	0	Brandy	...	„	360	0	0
Carraway Seeds	...	„	280	0	0	Coriander Seeds	...	„	2,734	6	0
Rope	...	„	1,314	0	0	Lanterns	...	„	200	0	0
Oars	...	„	2,059	12	0	Signal Lanterns	...	„	348	0	0
Muslin	...	„	375	0	0	Winnowing Machines		„	88	0	0

No. 111, dated 7th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter No. 468 of the 3rd instant, making certain enquiries with reference to a bill for Rs. 61,579-9-1 for the month of May 1865, I have the honor now to forward enclosed, in original, a return which I have received from the Sub-Assistant Commissary General of Port Blair, which will afford all the information you require.

Return of certain Articles from 1st May 1865 to 30th April 1866.

Numbers.	Articles.	Balance on hand, 1st May 1865.	Received between 1st May 1865 and 30th April 1866	Total Receipts.	Quantity issued to Troops, Hospitals, Departments, and written off the Return.		Quantity Sold.		Remarks.
					No.	Value.	No.	Value.	
						Rs. A. P.		Rs. A. P.	
1	Beetlenut ... ... lbs.	.....	7,166 13 0	7,166 13 0	1,991 5 0	248 14 7	1,798 8 0	224 13 0	
2	Brandy ... ... doren	2 7 Bot	35	37 7	4 3	102 0 0	1 7	38 0 0	
3	Carraway Seeds ... .. lbs.	....	112 0 0	112 0 0	....	.....	14 4 0	3 9 0	
4	Cloth, Muslin ... ... pieces	151 8 0	250 0 0	401 8 0	10 6 0	41 4 0	175 0 0	721 14 0	
5	Coriander Seeds ... . lbs.	907 1 5	16,040 12 0	16,947 13 5	1,709 0 0	213 10 0	5,503 4 0	675 6 6	
6	Grapes or Raisins ... „	106 8 0	2,081 0 0	2,187 8 0	1,035 11 1	517 13 6	197 8 0	98 12 0	
7	Honey ... ... „	4 12 0	200 0 0	204 12 0	70 12 0	35 6 0	5 8 0	2 12 0	
8	Lamps, Globe, of sizes ... No.	.....	64	64	21	588 0 0	40	1,120 0 0	
9	Lamps, Signal ... ... „	16	79	95	2	70 0 0	35	1,225 0 0	
10	Lanterns	32	132	164	61	45 12 0	101	75 12 0	
11	Oars ... ... feet	. ...	7,762	7,762	366	171 9 0	4,963	2,326 6 6	
12	Oil, Linseed ... ... gals.	36 20 Dr.	951 0	987 20	348 11	817 1 10	581 14 0	1,380 11 6	
13	Paint, Red .. ... lbs.	.....	2,938 0 0	2,938 0 0	300 0 0	28 2 0	460 4 0	43 2 4	
14	Paint, Green .. ... „	1,836 0 0	4,342 0 0	6,178 0 0	224 0 0	23 5 4	1,300 0 0	135 6 8	
15	Pots, Copper .. ... „	1,570 8 0	4,318 6 0	5,888 14 0	964 14 0	768 14 4	2,867 5 0	2,284 14 9	
16	Rope, Europe	22,160 1 0	6,406 0 0	28,566 1 0	7,228 0 0	1,808 0 0	10,104 0 0	2,526 0 0	
17	Stones, Grinding . ... pairs	.....	48	48	2	56 0 0	19	532 0 0	
18	Winnowing Machines ... No.	.....	10	10	.. . .	.....	.....	.....	
19	Wire, Copper or Brass lbs.	457 1 0	260 0 0	717 0 0	8 0 0	4 8 0	39 12 4	22 5 11	

(Signed) ARTHUR F. LAUGHTON, Lieut.,
Sub-Assistant Commissary General.

Commissariat Office,
Port Blair, 7th May 1867

No. 535, dated 8th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to enclose Lieutenant-Colonel Ford's letter No. 111 of the 7th instant, with a return.

2. I request you will be good enough to fill up in the column of remarks the names of the persons who bought •

Article No. 4	1,754 pieces muslin ...	...	...	Rs.	721	14	0
„ „ 8	40 globe lamps ...	...	...	„	1,120	0	0
„ „ 9	35 signal do. ...	...	...	„	1,225	0	0
„ „ 10	101 lanterns ...	....	...	„	75	12	0
„ „ 11	4,963 feet of oars ...	...	...	„	2,326	6	6
„ „ 14	1,300 lbs. of paint ...	...	...	„	135	6	8
„ „ 15	2,067 lbs. copper pots	...	...	„	2,284	0	0

3. Please state in a memo. in each case whether the money was paid in silver or tokens, and what was done with the cash. The return of the enclosed is requested.

No. 106, dated 10th May, 1867.

From—Lieut. A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to enclose a return showing who bought the articles alluded to in your letter No. 535, dated 8th May. There was no room for the names in the column of remarks of the return which accompanied your letter.

2. In 1865 everything issued was entered in my return as sold ; each Department being "billed" for the articles issued to it, though cash was not paid for them : a transfer entry only being made in the cash accounts. I have put a* against those items for which cash was not paid.

3. Payments are made into the Treasury direct. I cannot therefore tell whether they are made in silver or in copper tokens. Enclosures returned.

Return showing the names of the persons who bought muslin, globe lamps, signal lamps lanterns, oars, paint, and copper pots, between 1st May, 1865 and 30th April, 1866.

Muslin.

1865, May .	1	Mr. DeCruze.
	2	M. Vegerow Moodr.
	1	Mr. Mitchell.
„ June...	2	Mr. Pincott.
	1	Mr. Carthy.
	12	Heerah Sing.
	1	Mooneappah.
	2	Dhunee Sing.
	1	Mr. Porry.
	1	Heerah Sing.
	1	Balram.
	2	Mr. Thompson.
	1	Can't be traced.
„ July ..	1	Mr. Carthy.
	4	Dhunee Sing.
	1	Ramdoss.
	9	Heerah Sing.
	2	Tailor.
	1	M. Douglas.
	1	Choulah.
„ Aug. ..	1	Mr. Douglas.
	2	Mr. Carthy.
	1	I. N. Mitter.
	2	Mr. Macfarquhar.
	8	Heerah Sing.
	2	Mr. Ringrow.
	1	F. Laughton.
	1	Ramasamy.
„ Sept. ...	4	Officers.
	3	E. A. DeCruze.
	1	Mr. Pincott.
	1	Cunniah.
	2	Mr. Ringrow.
	8	Heera Sing.
	1	Jehangerjee.
	2	Mr. Phipps.
„ Oct. ...	1	Omed Baid.
	1	Mr. Holmes.
	1	Mr. Ringrow.
	1	F. Laughton.
	1	Dhunee Sing.

Muslin.—(Continued.)

1865, Oct. ...	3	Heerah Sing.
	1	Shunmogum.
„ Nov. ...	2	Dhunee Sing.
	1	Mr. Bozee.
	3	Heerah Sing.
	2	Mr. Doughty.
	1	Mr. Holmes.
	2	Kistoo.
	2	Sheshnallee.
„ Dec. ...	2	M. Toolsingum Moodr.
	3	Mr. Ringrow.
	2	Mr. Doughty.
	4	Mr. Phipps.
	1	Kishnasamy Moodr.
	1	Heerah Sing.
1866, Jan. ..	2	Mr. Ringrow.
	2	Mr. Doughty.
	9	Heeran Sing.
	5	Miss Downham.
	1	Vegerow Moodr.
„ Feb. ...	1	F. Laughton.
	2	Mr. Ringrow.
	1	Mr. DeCruse.
	12	Heerah Sing.
„ Mar. . .	2	Mr. Doughty.
	3	Mr. Ringrow.
	6	Heerah Sing.
	1	Mr. DeCruze.
„ April ...	1	Mr. Ringrow.
	1	Captain Avery.
	1	Mr. Mitchell.
	1	M. Thoolsingum.
	1	Mr. Berrill.
Total pieces	175	

Lamps, Globe.

1865, Aug. ...	1	Dhunee Sing.
„ Oct. ...	1	Lt. Owen.
„ Nov. ...	1	Mr. Murphy.

Lamps, Globe.—(Continued.)

1865, Dec. ...	10	1st Division.*
1866, Jan. ..	6	Mr. Arratoon.*
„ Feb. ...	1	Lamplighter.*
	2	Viper I. Overseer.*
„ Mar. ...	1	Superintendent.*
„ April...	12	Mr. Arratoon.*
	5	Govindhass.*
Total ...	40	

Lamps, Signal.

1865, July ...	1	Superintendent.*
	2	Mr. Driscott.*
	1	Captain Mathews.*
	1	Mr. Pincott.*
„ Aug. ...	1	Superintendent.*
	1	Mr. Hawkins.*
	10	Chatterjee.*
„ Nov. ...	2	"Lady Lawrence."*
	3	Superintendent.*
	2	Captain Pollock.*
	1	Lt. Jamieson.
	10	Mr. Homfray.*
Total ...	35	

Lanterns.

1865, June...	2	Heerah Sing.
	11	Superintendent.*
„ July ...	24	Heerah Sing.
	2	Nepaul*.
	7	Dhunee Sing.
	1	Bagoujee.
	1	Ramasamy.
	1	J. Thorn.
	2	Dhunee Sing.
	1	Mr. Prince.
„ August..	16	Mr. Arratoon*
	1	Venkatsawmy.
„ Sept. ...	1	Lieut. Jamieson.
	1	Officers.
	5	Moung Meen.*
	2	David.
„ October.	4	Guffoor.*
	2	Mr. Carthy.
	1	Mr. Boyal.
	1	Police Guard.
	6	Mr. Hawkins.*
„ Nov. ...	1	Maglay.*
„ Dec. ...	1	Captain Pollock.
1866, Mar....	7	Overseer Aberdeen.*
Total ...	101	

Oars, Ash.

1865, July ...	160	Or. Comy. Troops.*
	318	Marine Department.*
„ Aug. ...	108	Lt. Jamieson.
„ „ ...	1,524	Marine.
„ Sept. ...	108	Marine.*
1866, Jan. ...	2541	Marine.*
	36	Schooner "Alexandra."*
	144	Miss Coutes.*
„ April ...	24	"Alexandra."*
Total ...	4,963	Running Feet.

Green Paint.

1865, May ...	8	Can't be traced.
	8	Shepah Dadoo.
	56	Superintendent.*
	28	Do.*
	28	Do.*
	28	Do.*
	56	Do.*
	28	Dept. Pub. Works.
	4	Jehangerjee.
	56	Superintendent*.
	28	Dept. Pub. Works
Total ...	328	

(*Green Paint.*—Continued.)

1865, July ...	28	Superintendent.*
	56	Ditto.*
	28	Captain Mathews.*
	56	Superintendent.*
„ Aug....	28	Ditto.*
„ Oct. ...	15	Jehungerjee.
	3	Mr. Corbyn.
	1-8	Panchcourie.
	84	Heerah Sing.
	6	Mr. Corbyn.
„ Nov. ...	2	Dhunee Sing.
	28	Superintendent.
	4	Mr. Sowertz.
	56	Marine.*
	56	Do.*
	3	Mr. Corbyn.
	8	Heerah Singh.
„ Dec. ...	28	Superintendent.*
	28	Dept. Pub. Works.
	1	Soobroy Moodr.
	5	Mr. Doughty.
Total ...	832-8	

For the remaining months the items cannot be traced, as the several kinds of Paint were blended under one head "Paints of sorts."

Copper Pots.

1865, May ...	7	13	0	Heerah Singh.
	3	8	0	Mr. D'Cruiz.
	7	8	0	C. Soobroy.
	79	0	0	Marine.*
„ June ...	3	8	0	Mooneappah.
	2	2	0	Mr. Mitchell.
	11	9	0	Brick Mistry.
	244	0	0	Marine.*
„ July ...	5	4	0	Vythelingum.
	26	0	0	Heerah Sing.
	5	1	0	Mr. Holmes.
	4	8	0	Balaram.
	3	0	0	Rob. Thomas.
	68	11	0	Heerah Sing.
	1	12	0	Free Cooly.
	7	9	8	Jackson.
	3	10	0	Davee Sing.
	11	10	0	Heerah Sing.
	5	2	0	Venkatsawmy.
	2	8	0	Police Guard.
	3	2	0	Lt. Laughton.
	8	10	0	Syed Hossain.
	2	10	0	Heerah Sing.
	1	15	0	S. Scott.
	2	7	0	Venkutsamy.
	2	7	0	Davee Sing.
„ Sept....	2	1	0	Marsha Khan.
	14	12	0	Lt. Jamieson.
	5	7	0	Nagapitta.
	11	0	0	Mr. Prince.
	4	6	0	Mr. Phipps.
	15	12	0	Heerah Sing.
	6	3	0	Lt. Cumming.
	7	6	0	Police Guard.
	15	0	0	Syed Hossein.
	2	11	0	Mr Arratoon.
	2	3	8	Mr. Doughty.
	8	15	0	Mr. Mcfarquhar.
	8	3	0	Sappers and Mines.
	2	11	0	Heera Singh.
„ Oct. ...	2	0	0	Free Cooly.
	2	0	0	Sergt. Hullan.
	2	0	1	Head Moonshee.*
	4	0	0	Soobroy.
	6	1	0	Lt. Laughton.
	5	2	0	Omed Bade.
	2	15	0	Mr. Boyce.
	6	14½	0	Heerah Sing.
	11	8	0	Police Guard.
„ Nov. ...	701	0	0	Superintendent*.
	1	0	0	Mr. Boyce.
	5	2	0	Prinder Juit.
	10	2	0	Mr. Berrill.
	2	3	0	Martin Murphy.
	5	0	0	Bluett.
	6	8	0	Lt. Williams.
„ Dec...	4	11	0	Mr. Ross.
	2	8	0	M. Toolasingun Moodr.

Copper Pots.—(Continued).

1865, Dec...	49	9	0	Mr. Homfray.*
	2	2	0	Heerah Sing.
1866, Jan. ...	2	0	0	Newbond.
	2	9	0	Dr. Morton.
	488	8	0	Asst. Superintendent.*
„ Feb. ...	5	10	0	Emam Khan.*
	348	0	0	Superintendent.*
	22	0	0	Mr. Mitchell.
	3	4	0	Heerah Sing.

Copper Pots.—(Concluded).

1866, Feb.	183	0	0	Mr. Arratoon.*
„ March.	3	0	0	Mr. Mitchell.
	72	12	0	Dett. 25th Regt.
	6	3	0	Toybah Mohun.
	45	12	0	Mr. Homfray.*
	2	8	0	Mr. Tolasingun Moodr
„ April ..	42	9	0	Medl. Department.*
Total ...	2,867	5	0	

No. 519, dated 6th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to send you bills as per margin for Febuary 1867, and am directed to make the following remarks, on which I request explanation :—

Nos. 769, 797, 798, 815, 819, 820, 822, 823, 825 to 828, 831 & 835.

Bill 769 for Rs. 1,100-12 cash paid to convicts.

1*st.*—Is this all paid in tokens or silver ?

2*nd*—Do any of these prisoners receive pay from any other source or for any other account than entered in this bill ?

Bill 797.—Who are the eight classes of convicts who receive pay varying from 15 to 4 Rupees which I have marked *A.* to *B* ?

Bill 798.—By what authority do children of convicts receive pay, and what rules exist for the several rates charged ?

Bill 815.—Why is apparently a supplementary bill attached for convict's pay, that is, why was not all included in the previous bill 797 ?

2*nd.*—As subsistence is paid in advance, how came arrears to accrue ?

Bill 819.—What officer was responsible that 929 bottles of milk were actually furnished to the sick in February.

Bill 820.—Here is another bill for pay of prisoners, why not all included in one bill ?

Bill 822.—This bill is headed for hospital troops, &c., why is it not clearly shewn whether it was for prisoners or troops or for who ? Separate bills should be submitted for troops as distinct from convicts. In this bill 1,800 balls of thread are put down as issued along with eggs, chicken, butter, razors, copper tacks. It is not possible to trace the Budget Head under which the many articles are to be met, whether medical, clothing, or what. The bill in fact is imperfectly framed. What is the meaning of "50 No. Petticoats hire stitching Rs. 12-8." Who were these petticoats for ? "50 jackets hire for stitching Rs. 12-8." Who were they for ? Why was cash paid for making them ? 105 balls of thread appear to have been consumed in making them ; is this correct ?

To this bill there is a voucher for 170 lbs. of arrowroot stated to be purchased "departmentally," Rs. 42. What does this mean ? Who paid the money ? Who were the articles for ? and who received the money, and was the money paid in tokens or coin ?

Bill 823.—Extra hospital diet for prisoners. It is understood the subsistence or pay of the patients to whom this diet was supplied was stopped, but since subsistence money is paid in advance, explain the process as to how the money is recovered.

Bill 825.—What is the meaning of wages to Settlement carpenters Rs. 275, and extra allowance to bheesties and dhobies Rs. 20-14-6 ?

How is the cost of feed for Government cattle, Rs. 596-1-9, adjusted, who paid, and who received the money ?

Bill 826.—Who got the Rs. 18 for tinning plates, and whose plates were they ?

Bill 827.—Who is the head tailor who receives Rs. 6 a month, and for what purpose is he required ; is he a convict or freeman ?

Bill 828.—Same question as above regarding head blacksmith.

Bill 831.—Another bill for subsistence monthly, why not all included in previous Bill 797.

Bill 835.—Commission to convict shopkeepers, Rs. 804-14-1. Is this paid in tokens or silver to the bunniahs ; if the former, is it merely a fictitious expenditure, that is, does the mere value of the copper and the cost of making it into coin represent the exact loss to Government ?

No. 496, dated 6th May, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will be good enough to supply him with copies of every voucher or indent concerning the sums contained in your bill dated 21st February 1867, amounting to Rs. 1,268-1-6 sent for the counter signature of the Chief Commissioner.

No. 99, dated 9th May, 1867.

From—Lieut. A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to inform you, in reply to your Memo No. 496, dated 6th May, that the bill therein alluded to is not an *issue* voucher. Every article shewn in my bills is brought on my returns and issued as required or indented for; some articles may remain in store some months before being issued. The Accountant General audits my accounts, both on the receipt side (for which these bills are vouchers) and on the issue side. The articles were purchased for issue as follows :—

183½	lbs.	Garlic	For shipment, free residents, 2 convicts as required.
13 6	„	Tacks, copper	Marine Department, as required.
1-0	„	Mustard, Europe ...	Hospital as required.
5,622¼	„	Bread	Troops, free residents, hospitals, &c.
232	no.	Eggs	Hospital.
60	„	Chickens	Ditto.
4	„	Fowls	Ditto.
8-15	lbs.	Butter	Issued from store, ditto.
645	bott.	Milk	Ditto do.
715	lbs.	Flour Rice	Hospitals.
1,848	no.	Hoppers	Ditto.
5	bags	Charcoal	Ditto.
210	sheets	Paper, unglazed ...	Ditto.
4	lbs.	Pepper	Ditto.
2	„	Sugar-candy	Mis. Contgt.
23½	„	Tack, copper	Marine.
393	prs.	Salt-fish @ 0-4 per piece ...	For shipment for troops, &c.
324½	lbs.	Ditto @ 0-5 per lb. ...	Ditto ditto.
1800	no.	Balls thread	Hospital clothing.
24	„	Tinpots	Hospital.
18	„	Pots, tin	Ditto.
2	„	Razors	Ditto
4	oz.	Vermillion	Post Office.
Hire for stitching 50 No. petticoats ...			Hospital.
„ 50 jackets			Ditto.
6 pieces and 10 yds. cloth lining @ 5 yds. for petticoats ...			Ditto, issued from store.
2 pieces and 7½ yds. cloth 1¾ yd. for jacket,			Ditto, issued from store.
170	lbs.	arrowroot	Hospital.

No. 482, dated 4th May, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to state that the Commissariat accommodation at this Settlement is so indifferent that, unless some means are taken to improve matters, he fears there will be great loss ensuing to Government during the coming monsoon.

2. The undersigned requests to know whether you are satisfied that you can make all necessary arrangements for the protection of Government stores.

No. 107, dated 6th May, 1867.

Memo. from—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 482 of the 4th instant, requesting to know whether the undersigned is satisfied that he can make all necessary arrangements for the protection of Government stores during the coming monsoon.

2. This matter having been referred to the Executive Commissariat Officer for his report, a copy of his opinion is attached.

3. The undersigned begs to state that he has made over the use temporarily of a semi-permanent barrack at Chatham to the Commissariat Department for the storage of grain, &c. The hulk "Erin-go-bragh" has also been brought round from "Port Mouat;" she is at present quite empty and is available also for the receiption of stores on arrival. It is to be hoped, therefore, that by these means shelter for the coming monsoon, at all events, will be found for all Government stores that may arrive within that period.

4. The corrugated iron godowns ordered from England ought by this time to have reached this. The vessels containing them may now be immediately expected to arrive, and the Executive Engineer will be moved to proceed with the erection of at least two of them without delay.

No. 86, dated 6th May, 1867.

From—Lieut A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*
To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor to inform you, in reply to your Memo. No. 31, dated 6th May, that I do not consider the accommodation provided for my stores sufficient or satisfactory, nor will it be so in my opinion until I obtain seven more godowns similar to my new one, with a corrugated iron roof.

No. 316, dated 17th April, 1867.

Memo. from—*Major* H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will be good enough to furnish me with a return, containing a list of all the stores of every description indented for Port Blair Settlement, and from whatever place, from 1st January 1866, to 31st December 1866, according to the subjoined form.

No. 120, dated 8th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Bord, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter marked 316 of the 17th ultimo, I have the honor to forward you new returns from the Engineer, Medical, and Commissariat Departments, in part of the list of all stores of every description for Port Blair Settlement and from whatever place, from 1st January 1866, to 31st December 1866, according to the form furnished by you.

2. The return from this Office will follow to-morrow morning.

List of Stores Indented for Port Blair from other Departments.

Names of Stores.	Number or Quantity.	No. or Quantity in store on 1st January 1866.	No. or Quantity indented for.	Date of Indent.	No. or Quantity which has been received at Port Blair from 1st January to 17th April 1867.	By what ship received, and rate of freight.	From what Port ordered.	Remarks.
Gunny Bags ..	No.	Nil.	4,371	Indent dated generally on the 25th of the month from January 1866 to April 1867.	All received.	From the Commissariat, Port Blair.		
Venetian Hooks ...	"		2,823					
Hinges ...	"		1,077					
Tar ...	lbs.		2-3					
Rosin ...	"		18					
Canvas ...	Yards		233					
Hasp and Staples ...	No.		7					
Door Locks ...	"		13					
Rum ...	Gallons		4					
Salt ...	lbs.		200					
Tallow ...	"		226					
Hides ...	No.		25					
Saltpetre ...	lbs.		1					
Boards ...	rg. ft.		6-10					
Empty Boxes ...	No.		4					
Foot Rule ...	"		1					
Spun Yarn ...	lbs.		134					
Pic Axes ...	No.		70					
Mulmul Cloth ...	Piece		1					
American Cloth ..	Pcs.&yds.		3-29					
Country Soap ..	lbs.		5					
Gunny Needles ...	No.		8					
Copper Sheets ...	lbs.		12					
Mustard Oil ...	"		503					
Lead ...	"		205					
Vinegar ...	"		9					
Green Paint ...	"		140					
Red Paint ...	"		336					
Dâhs ...	No.		55					
Buckets, Wooden ...	"		68					
Hooks, Iron ...	"		788					
Pitch ...	lbs.		504					
Sledge Hammers ...	No.		30					
Rattan ...	Bundles.		92					

List of Stores indented for Port Blair from other Departments—(Concluded).

Names of Stores.	Number or Quantity.	No. or Quantity in store on 1st January 1866.	No. or Quantity indented for.	Date of Indent.	No. or Quantity which has been received at Port Blair from 1st January to 17th April 1867.	By what ship received, and rate of freight.	From what Port ordered.	Remarks.
Compass ...	No.	Nil.	3	Indent dated generally on the 25th of the month from January 1866 to April 1867.	All received.	From the Commissariat, Port Blair.		
Padlocks ...	"		14					
Oakum ...	lbs.		56					
Rope, Cotton ...	"		17					
Brace, Iron with Bits	Sett.		1					
Coal, English ...	Ton.		224½					
Brass Hinges ...	No.		90					
Salamoniac ..	Oz.		12					
Saws, Hand ...	No.		3					
Gauges ...	"		2					
Axes, Felling ...	"		20					
Iron Sheets ...	lbs.		1,177					
Empty Tins ...	No.		900					
Augurs ...	"		2					
Solder ...	lbs.		9					
Glass ...	No.		545					
Blocks, Wooden ..	"		10					
Coal Tar ...	lbs.		3,552					
Chalk ...	"		275					
Linseed Oil ...	"		1,248					
Gram ...	"		21,800					
Nails ...	"		17,380					
Files ...	No.		502					
Zinc Sheets ...	lbs.		256					
Seizing Line ..	"		85					
Paint Brushes ...	No.		24					
Iron Bolts ...	"		407					
Zinc Tacks ..	lbs.		20					
Copper Bar ...	"		60					
Europe Twine ...	"		115					
Bees' Wax ...	"		5.4					
Oars ...	Feet		134					
Shingle Nails ...	lbs.		424					
Sand Paper ..	No.		12					
Gimlets ..	"		7					
Scissors ...	"		11					
Iron Bar ...	lbs.		7,354					
Cocoanut Oil ..	"		1,625					
Turpentine ...	"		211					
White Paint ...	"		2,102					
Coir Rope ..	"		1,708					
Jute ...	"		12					
Copper Sheets ...	"		5½					
Screws ...	No.	Nil.	6,431					
Europe Rope ...	lbs.		3,458					
Baskets, Rattan ...	No.		2,464					
Copper Tacks ...	lbs.		31					
Brick Moulds ..	No.		18					
Wedges, Iron ..	"		58					
Grinding Stone ...	"		1					
Prindle Bars ...	"		2					
Scantlings ...	C. Ft.		29					
Indigo ...	lbs.		½					
Hoop, Iron ...	"		1,736					
Bolts, Brass ...	No.		22					
Iron Casks ...	"		18					
Sheep's Skin ...	"		18					
Wire, Brass ..	ozs.		10					
Lithorge .	lbs.		10					
Beetle Nut	"		1					
Tape ...	Yards.		18					
Barrack Frames .	No.		285	Sent by order of Govt. of Bengal.	.....	From the Bengal Presidency Division.		
Angle, Iron ...	"		575					
Purlins	"		220					
Gunpowder ..	lbs.		500	.....	.....	Rangoon Arsenal.		
Iron Sheds (Corrugated) ..	No.		10	12th May 1866	.....	From the Secy. of State for India, England.		

W. G. CUMMING, *Lieut., R. E.,*
Executive Engineer, Port Blair.

Return showing the List of Stores indented for the use of the Medical Department, Settlement Port Blair, for the year 1866.

Name of Stores.	Unit of No. or Quantity	No. or Quantity in store on 1st January 1866.	No. or Quantity indented for.	Date of Indent.	From what Port ordered.	No. or quantity which has been received from 1st Jan 1866 to 17th April, 1867.	By what ship received and rate of freight.	REMARKS Here state for what Department they were required, and how disposed of.
Medical Stores.	22 Cases.	None.	22 Cases.	1st February, 1866.	Calcutta.	All received.	"Prince Arthur."	For the use of Settlement Hospital, Port Blair.

PORT BLAIR,
20th April, 1867.

A J. COWIE,
Senior Surgeon.

No. 178, dated 20th April, 1867.

From—C. DARWOOD, ESQ., *Harbour Master, Port Blair,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

With reference to your letter No 53 of the 18th instant, I have the honor to forward herewith a return (in the form therewith sent) containing a list of all stores drawn and received for the use of the Marine Department, from 1st January to 31st December, 1866, as appear on the records of this office and during my time.

Statement shewing the Articles drawn for the use of the Marine Department from the Commissariat Department of Port Blair, from 1st January to 31st December 1866, as also those received from other Ports from 1st January 1866 to 17th April 1867, as appears on the records.

NAMES OF STORES.	Unit of No. or Quantity.	No. or Quantity in store on 1st Jan 1866.	Number or quantity indented for.	Date of Indent.	From what Port ordered.	No. or Quantity which has been received at Port Blair from 1st Jan. 1866 to 17th April 1867.	By what ship received, and rate of freight	REMARKS.
Anchor ...	Cwt. ...	Not on record of this office.	27-3-0	1st February 1866, 3rd, 14th and 24th March 1866, 25th April 1866, 22nd May 1866, 21st June 1866, 25th July 1866, 24th August 1866, 24th September 1866, 9th October 1866, 25th October 1866, 28th November 1866, and 13th and 26th December 1866.				These articles were drawn on indents from the Commissariat Department at Port Blair, according to the requirements of the Marine Department.
Axes, China ...	No. ..		18					
Adzes ...	" ..		36					
American Jean	Pcs & Yds ...		4 p.l yd					
Bar, Iron	lbs. ...		3,465					
Bar, Copper ...	" ..		55½					
Chain, Rubble ...	Fath.		74					
Chain, Cable .	" ...		124					
Paint Brushes ...	No. ...		27					
Knives, Drawing	"		6					
Oil, Linseed ...	lbs. ...		441					
" Mustard ..	" ...		250					
" Cocoanut .	"		302					
" Earth ...	" ..		18					
Thimble, Iron ..	No. ..		12					
" Brass ...	" ..		6					
Twine, Europe ...	lbs.		56⅜					
Brick, Bath ...	No. ...		4					
Steel, Blister ...	lbs ...		1780					
Paint, Green ...	Keg No. ...		1					
" Black ...	lbs. ..		84					
" White ...	Keg No. ...		2					
Hinges, Iron ..	No. ...		14					
" Brass ...	"		30					
Padlocks, Iron ...	"		12					

Statement showing the articles drawn for the use of the Marine Department from the Commissariat Department of Port Blair, from 1st January to 31st December 1866, as also those received from other ports from 1st January 1866 to 17th April 1867, as appears on the records.—(Continued.)

Names of Stores.	Unit of No. or quantity.	No. or Quantity in store on 1st Jan. 1866.	No. or Quantity indented for.	Date of Indent.	From what Port ordered.	No. or Quantity which has been received at Port Blair from 1st Jan. 1866 to 17th April 1867.	By what ship received, and rate of freight.	Remarks.
Padlocks, Brass...	No.	Not on Record of this Office.	1	1st February 1866, 3rd, 14th, and 24th March 1866, 25th April 1866, 22nd May 1866, 21st June 1866, 25th July 1866, 24th August 1866, 24th September 1866, 9th October 1866, 25th October 1866, 28th November 1866, and 13th and 28th December 1866.				These articles were drawn on indents from the Commissariat Department at Port Blair according to the requirements of the Marine Department.
Screws, Iron ...	"		2655					
Oars, Ash ...	R. ft. ...		1108¼					
Nails, Iron ...	lbs. ...		293					
" Zinc ...	" ...		59					
" Spike ...	" ...		80					
Soap, Country ...	" ...		80					
Gimlets ...	No. ...		27					
Composition Copper Nails.	lbs. ..		74					
Ditto Brass Ditto	" ...		30					
Sheet, Copper ...	" ...		1,006 7/16					
Pitch, Tar ...	" ...		5,490					
Coal " ...	" ...		2,232					
Coal ...	Tons ...		5					
Palms ...	No. ...		8					
Black Lead ...	lbs. ...		1					
Gudgeons, Iron...	No. ...		4					
Tacks, Copper ...	lbs. ...		64½					
" Iron ...	" ..		1					
Gudgeons, Brass	No. ...		5					
Glasses for Windows.	" ...		20					
Pintles, Brass ...	" ...		5					
" Iron ...	" ...		5					
Teak Timber ...	C. ft. ...		205·61					
" Boards ...	R. ft. ...		1,400					
" Scantling ...	" ..		200					
White Zinc Paint	lbs. ..		112					
Canvas, Europe...	Yds. ...		477½					
Bullock Hides ...	No. ...		8½					
Gunny Bags ...	" ...		40					
Tallow ...	lbs. ...		30					
Coir Rope ...	" ...		1,516					
Europe Rope ...	" ...		2,382					
Blocks, Wooden	No. ...		2					
Buckets, " ...	" ...		24					
Chalk ...	lbs. ...		75					
Signal Lamp Globe	No. ...		5					
Seizing Line ...	lbs. ...		86¼					
Zinc Tacks ...	" ...		25					
Wick, Cotton ...	" ..		6					
Bees' Wax ...	" ...		1¾					
Ratline ...	" ...		322					
Tar, Stockholm...	" ...		440					
Kettles ...	No. ...		1					
Sauce Pan ...	" ...		2					
Dekchies ...	" ..		1					
Brooms ...	Doz. ...		1					
Needles, Sail ...	No. ...		36					
Gum, Arabic ...	lbs. ...		1					
Files of sizes ...	No. ...		26					
Castor Oil ...	lbs. ...		75					
Fuller's Earth ...	" ...		50					
Indigo ...	Oz. ..		4					
Hand Saws ...	No. ...		24					
Augurs ...	" ...		14					
Chisels ..	" ...		45					
Hammers ..	" ...		24					
Planes of sorts ...	" ..		12					
Foot Rule ...	" ...		6					
Gauges ...	" ..		14					
Rattan ...	Bndls. ..		50					
Madras Cloth ...	Yds. ...		4					
Copper Rivets ...	No. ...		200					
Brass Wire ...	lbs. ...		3½					

Statement shewing the articles drawn for the use of the Marine Department from the Commissariat Department of Port Blair, from 1st January to 31st December 1866, as also those received from other ports from 1st January 1866 to 17th April 1867, as appears on the records.—(Concluded.)

Names of Stores	Unit of No. or Quantity.	No. or Quantity in store on 1st January 1866.	No. or Quantity indented for.	Date of Indent.	From what port ordered.	No. or Quantity which has been received at Port Blair from 1st Jan. 1866 to 17th April 1867.	By what ship received, and rate of freight.	Remarks.
Coal Tar ..	Barrels No. ...	Not on Record of this Office.	The indent for these articles does not appear on the records of this Office; this column, therefore, cannot be filled up.	Ditto.	Calcutta	25	Ship "Tubal Cain"	Made over to the Commt. Dept.
Pitch, Europe .	"				"	10	Ditto ...	
Sledge Hammers	No. ...				"	35	Ditto ...	
Hooks and Staples	Pairs ..				"	2	Ditto ...	
Mooring Sails ...	No. ...				"	2	Str. "Arracan" ..	
Wooden Buckets	No. ...			Ditto.	Calcutta	4	Str. "Arracan" ..	Made over to the Comst. Dept. of Port Blair, *vide* receipt dated 1st April 1867.
Country Brooms	"				"	4	Ditto ..	
Hand Lead Line	"				"	1	Ditto ...	
Ash Oars, 20ft each	"				"	8	Ditto ...	
Signal Octagon Lantern.	"				"	1	Ditto ...	
Log Line ..	Skein ...				"	2	Ditto ...	
Blocks, Double 8,,	No. ...				"	2	Ditto ...	
"Blocks, Single 8"	No. ...			Ditto.	Calcutta	2	Str. "Arracan" ..	Made over to the Comst. Department of Port Blair.
Rope Coir of sorts	Fath. ...				"	180	Ditto ...	
Chain Rubble ⅝ in., with shackle.	"				"	120	Ditto ...	
Iron Stacked Anchor.	No. ..				"	2	Ditto ...	
Tarpaulins ...	"			Ditto.	"	3	Ditto ...	
Logsail ...	"				"	1	Ditto ..	
Yard ...	"				"	1	Ditto ...	
Boats ...	No. ...				Calcutta	6		Purchased from board the transport Ship "Clara."
Ditto ...	" .				PortBlair	1	. ...	

Memo.—The stores indented per Steamer "Diana" are not on the Record of this Office.

C. DARWOOD,
Harbour Master, Port Blair.

Port Blair,
The 20th April 1867.

No. 140, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In completion of the return called for in your letter No. 316 of the 17th ultimo, and with reference to this Office letter No. 120 of the 8th instant, I have the honor to forward enclosed a return of stores indented for for this Settlement, from 1st January to 31st December, 1866.

Return of Stores indented for Port Blair Settlement, from 1st January to 31st December 1866.

Names of Stores		Unit of No. or Quantity.	No. or Quantity in store on 1st Jan. 1866.	No. or Quantity indented for.	Date of Indent.	From what port ordered.	No. or Quantity which has been received at Port Blair, from 1st Jan. 1866, to 17th April 1867.	By what ship received, and rate of freight.	Remarks.
Punjum cloth	..	Yards.		33,990	28th Feb. 1866. 30th Oct. 1866.	Madras.	All received.	Govt. Vessels.	Convict Clothing.
Dosooty "	...	"		3,948	31st Dec. 1866.	Calcutta.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
Fire Engines		No.		6	27th Dec. 1865.	Ditto.	None.	.....	Not received as yet.
Rattans	...	"		68,350	From time to time.	Mergui.	2,10,000	Burmese Junks.	Difference locally purchased from Kattoos from Tavoy and Mergui.
Dunnie (thatch) leaves	..	"		3,14,525	Ditto.	Ditto.	5,20,000	Ditto.	Ditto.
Grinding Stones	...	"		20	21st April 1866.	Calcutta.	All received.	Govt. Vessel.	For Female Convicts.
Kad-we-oo (or Karen Potatoe)	...	Bags.		4	March 1866.	Tavoy.	Ditto.	Settlement Schr.	For Cultivation.
Seeds	..	None.	None.	Valued at Rs. 259-11-0	As required.	Cal. & Rangoon.	Seeds have been received to the value of Rs. 259-11-0	By Post.	Ditto.
Slippers	...	No.		5,000	28th April 1866. 6th Oct. 1866.	Madras.	All received.	Govt. Vessels.	For Convicts.
Ordnance Stores. Cartridges for 12-pr. howitzers	.	"		1,116	Jan. 1866.	Rangoon.	Ditto.	Ditto.	For Settlement purposes.
Loose Powder	...	lbs.		384	June 1866.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	
Cartridges, Adams' Revolver	..	No.		600	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	
Caps, Percussion	...	"		1,000	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	
Blue Lights	...	"		100	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	
Port Fires	.	"		100	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto	
Signal Rockets	.	"		100	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	
Rocket Staves	...	"		100	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	
Port Fire Sockets	...	"		6	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	
Cheveaux-de-frise	..	Feet.		1,002	March 1866.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	
Printing Press and Materials	...	No.		1	14th June 1866.	Calcutta.	Ditto.	Ditto.	

Port Blair;
Superintendent's Office,
The May, 1867.

B. FORD, Lieut.-Col.,
Superintendent, Port Blair.

No. 469, dated 3rd May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

It has appeared to the Chief Commissioner from some items he has observed procured by you from Calcutta, that many things are procured from Calcutta at needless expense.

I am desired to note the following which appears in the Commissariat accounts for October 1866, furnished to the Accountant General at Rangoon :—

42 mosquito curtains	...	at Rs.	4	0 each.	Who were they for ?
100 linen shirts	...	„	1	10 „	Ditto.
70 pairs slippers	...	„	0	14 „	Ditto.
50 linen trousers	...	„	1	8 „	Ditto.
10 teak-wood commodes	...	„	18	0 „	Ditto.

These last I was desirous of inspecting. I procured a new one from the hospital, and I am bound to say the style of the articles for prisoners used is simply extravagant, and the cost outrageous.

Please state how such expensive articles came to be procured for prisoners ?

500 lbs. cutch at Rs. 16 per cwt This at Rangoon was only Rs. 35 for lbs. 365.

40,000 lbs of tamarind at Rs. 4-12 per cwt. This article can be procured at Rangoon for about Rs. 7 for lbs. 365 ; this difference in favor of Rangoon, considering freight, is only half what it is to Calcutta, and mostly freight can be had in Government vessels to a considerable sum in a year.

9,000 cwt. Salt, Liverpool, Rs. 6-14 per cwt. Now Salt at Rangoon is only about Rs. 13 per lbs. 365

In June 1866, four deal chests were got at Rs. 22 each. What are these for ?

3,000 rattan baskets were also procured at Rs. 12-8 per 100. They could be made up in the Rangoon Jail far cheaper

1,500 maunds gram at Rs 4-12. The price at Rangoon was about Rs. 6-12 for two maunds.

The above are a few samples of reductions that might be made were pains taken to obtain price currents from the ports of Calcutta and Rangoon.

No. 75, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT. A. F. LAUGHTON, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In connection with the subject of the reduction of the reserved stock of provisions required to be kept on hand, I have the honor to request you will have the goodness to obtain the sanction of the Chief Commissioner to my at once reducing my stock of general articles to a limit sufficient for 3 months' consumption, keeping for the present a stock of 4 and 5 months of the more important articles as shewn in the margin.

Four months—Coffee, fullers' earth, ghoor, sheep, soojee, sugar, tea and wheat.

Five months.—Ale and Porter, beef, salt, chennah, dhall, ghee, mustard oil, salt, pork, potatoes preserved, rice, rum, and tamarind.

No. 141, dated 10th May 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 469 of the 3rd instant, in which you remark that it appears to the Chief Commissioner that certain articles procured by me from Calcutta have been obtained at needless expense. You note certain articles as per margin which, under the supposition that they are procured for convicts, appear in your opinion simply extravagant and the cost outrageous. You desire, therefore, that I should state how such expensive articles came to be procured for prisoners.

42 mosquito curtains, 100 linen shirts, 70 pairs slippers, 50 linen trousers, 10 teak-wood commodes.

2. In reply, I beg, in the first place, to state that the articles referred to were not procured by me from Calcutta, but by the Sub-Assistant Commissary General on the Indent of the Senior Medical Officer, and I beg to state that items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, were indented for the use of hospitals for troops, and for the general hospital in which all free European and Natives are treated.

3. Having referred to Lieutenant Laughton* on the subject of the cost of these articles, it appears that he procured them through the head of his Department at Calcutta, and he considers the price, for which they were obtained, as cheap.

4. I would here beg to remark that referring to your letter No. 142 of 17th July 1865, and to the Government letter to the Chief Commissioner's address No. 2297 of the 27th September 1865, forwarded to me with your memo. No. 241 of 17th October 1865, it would appear that it is the wish of Government and that of the Chief Commissioner that supplies should be obtained from Government Officers, and not from the market, and more from Calcutta than British Burmah. I, therefore, beg to call attention to Lieutenant

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* *Vide* copy of his letter No. 98 of 8th instant attached.

Laughton's paras 2 to 8 as well as his para 14, and would solicit that the Chief Commissioner would be pleased to issue his definite instructions to me for conveyance to the Executive Commissariat Officer, Port Blair, as to whether he is to transfer his demands to Burmah for articles, the current rates of which prove to be cheaper than those at Calcutta.

5. With regard to prices current, I applied for these when on leave a year ago, at Calcutta, but though promised, they were not forwarded. I have now directed Lieutenant Laughton to make official application for prices current, both for the ports of Calcutta, Rangoon, and Moulmein.

No. 93, dated 8th May, 1867.

From—Lieut. A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No 28, dated 4th May, forwarding one to your address from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, on the subject of certain articles said to have been procured from Calcutta at needless expense.

2. I have always been of opinion that it is to the advantage of Government having our supplies sent to us from Calcutta, even if at an additional cost of the articles, for the following reason, which appears to me an important one, and which shews that any saving from lower rates of freight from Burmah, or cheap prices of articles there, would, unless it amounted to a large sum, be more apparent than real.

3. The proportionate freight required for sheep from Calcutta is far in excess of that required for other stores,—the result of this is, that ships have to be sent down only half-laden, or else our demands for sheep are not complied with, as was the case last year, and we are thus left without fresh meat for issue to convicts. Our requirements in sheep will now be 1,000 per mensem. Only one ship has ever brought us so many, and she was a very large one, but even supposing each ship brought as many, she could only be laden with a proportionate quantity of stores, that is for one month, which I calculated at about 370 tons, the rest of the ship's space would therefore be wasted, and thus a loss accrue to Government. But if we withdraw our demand of only one article, say rice from Calcutta, our monthly consumption of which is about 120 tons, we should then be able to put only 250 tons in the Calcutta ship, pay the same freight for her, and also pay freight for 120 tons from Burmah.

4 I think you will see, therefore, that any change of this kind would be no saving to Government, but a dead loss.

5 So impressed I have been with this fact that the difference of rates, even if those in Burmah are less, has not appeared to me of importance sufficient to counterbalance the disadvantages. But I do not think that the difference of rates is very much, or that it is generally in favor of Burmah. Indeed, when I first arrived in the Settlement two years ago, I found that Burmah prices of articles we obtained from thence were high, so much so, that I at once ceased obtaining anything from thence that I could get at Calcutta.

6. Cattle, however, though more than three times the price in Burmah to what they are in Calcutta, we have got from the former place for the very reason that freight for live stock would be increased, did we obtain them from Calcutta without a proportionate increase in our demands for other stores, and hence the difficulty as above described in the case of the sheep would be increased.

7. I quote a few rates of articles procured from both Burmah and Calcutta.

			Burmah					Calcutta.			
Jan.	1864	...	Chisels	..	1	10	0	.....	0	11	4	
June	"	...	Bullocks	...	38	0	0	.....	15	0	0	
"	"	..	Sheep	...	13	0	0	.....	6	0	0	
"	"	.	Troughs	...	5	8	0	....	2	0	0	
"	"	...	Onions, lbs	...	0	3	2	.....	0	0	$3\frac{2}{11}$	
"	"	..	Oil, Cocoanut, lbs.	...	0	5	0	... .	0	2	$8\frac{1}{11}$	
"	"	...	Chillies, lbs.	...	0	6	0	.....	0	4	$10\frac{2}{7}$	
Sept.	"	...	Sheep	...	14	0	0	.....	6	0	0	
"	"	...	Gram	...	9	0	0	per bag	2	12	9	per cwt.
"	"	...	Baskets	...	28	0	0	per 100.	0	3	6	each.
"	"	...	Buckets	...	0	12	0	.. ..	1	4	0	
Oct.	"	...	Lime Juice	...	5	0	0	per gall.	2	8	0	
Dec.	"	...	Baskets	...	25	0	0	per 100.	6	0	0	per 100.
"	"	...	Rice	...	7	0	0	. per 164 lbs.	6	10	8	per 166 lb.
"	"	...	Moong Dholl	...	9	0	0	ditto.	4	15	0	ditto.
"	"	...	Sago	...	0	4	0	.....	0	5	0	
"	"	...	Salt	...	0	8	0	per lb.	0	1	$0\frac{1}{10}$	per lb.
"	"	...	Linseed Meal	...	1	0	0	ditto.	0	1	6	ditto.
Aug.	1865	..	Gram	...	4	12	0	per 64 lbs.	3	2	0	per cwt.
"	"	...	Salt	..	0	13	0	per lb	3	4	0	per 100 lbs.
July	"	...	Biscuits		20	0	0	100 lbs.	5	8	0	per maund.
"	"	..	Wheat	...	9	0	0	per bag.	3	14	0	per 100 lbs.
"	"	..	Rice	...	1	0	0	25 lbs.	3	10	6	ditto.
"	"	...	Ghoor	...	0	2	6	per lb.	6	7	9	per cwt.

			Burmah.				Calcutta.		
July	1865	...	Beetle-nut	...	1 0 0	per lb.	10 8 0	per 100 lbs.
"	"	...	Garlic	...	0 1 1	ditto.	4 0 0	ditto.
"	"	...	Rice, Table	..	12 0 0	per bag.	3 12 0	ditto.
"	"	...	Gram	...	9 0 0	per 164 lbs.	2 6 0	per maund.
"	"	...	Flour	...	0 10 0	per 3½ lbs.	0 1 8	per lb.
"	"	...	Soojee	...	1 0 0	ditto.	0 1 4	ditto.
Aug.	"	...	Gram	..	9 0 0	per bag.	3 2 0	per cwt.
"	"	...	Bullocks	...	40 0 0	.....	14 0 0	.....
"	"	...	Gram	...	10 0 0	per bag.	2 9 8	per 100 lbs.

Present rates also of some articles would appear to be less in Calcutta :—For instance, gram is quoted by Major Davies at Rs. 6-0-12 per 160 lbs., the price of that just received per "Merchantman" is Rs. 5-10 per 160 lbs. Rice received per "Merchantman" is Rs. 3-13-5 per 100 lbs, which, I presume, is not dearer than the price in Burmah.

8. I believe Calcutta prices are, on the whole, cheaper than Burmah rates. I shall, however, obtain price lists of each place at once, when I shall be better able to estimate the difference.

9. It does not appear from Major Davies' letter whether the needless expense in obtaining mosquito curtains, shirts, &c., consists in their being procured at all, or in their cost. If the former, I have to say that the rules of the service are such that, whenever the Medical Department, for which these things were got, or other Department, sends in a requisition on me, I am bound to comply with it; the Indenting Officer is responsible that nothing is entered which is not required; my share of the work being only to comply with his requisition.

10. As to the cost, I consider that I could not have acted in a manner more likely to have resulted in procuring the most suitable articles, and at the lowest rates, than by indenting for them on the Commissariat Officer at Calcutta, who being an Officer of long experience and being on the spot, would consult the interests of Government in this respect.

11. The articles are of a kind continually supplied by the Commissariat for Hospital use, and are doubtless procured at the same rates as for other hospitals in India, by contract, which system of obtaining supplies has been found most advantageous.

12. The price of the articles also appears to me cheap; nor do I think they could be got at Rangoon at so low a figure as Rs. 4 per mosquito curtain, Rs. 1-10 per shirt, Rs. 1-8 per trouser, and 14 annas for slippers.

13. Major Davies has evidently been misinformed as to the price of the night chairs; for the ten I obtained from Calcutta in October 1866 cost Rs. 11 each and not 18, they are exceedingly neat and strong, and I am only surprised how they could be made for the money. That these articles were obtained for the use of prisoners would appear to be but an inference, drawn evidently from an idea that everything sent to a Penal Settlement is for their use, to the exclusion of the free population, which numbers, I believe, some 800 or 900 persons. The night chairs in question were procured for the Hospital of the European Detachment, that of the Sappers and Miners, and several convict hospitals, including the General Hospital, in which, I believe, are treated all free Europeans belonging to or visiting the Settlement who may require to attend Hospital.

Four deal chests were procured for Hospitals on the requisition of the Medical Department. Rattan baskets shall be obtained from the Jail at Rangoon.

14. In conclusion I beg you will obtain the Chief Commissioner's views on the subject of our supplies in connection with the difficulty I have pointed out regarding freight for sheep, and solicit definite instructions from him on the subject, as to whether I am to transfer my demands to Burmah, if rates there prove to be cheaper than Calcutta prices.

No. 565, dated 13th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state, with reference to the quantity of the various articles which should be kept in store here, that you had better arrange this matter in personal communication with the Executive Commissariat Officer. I am merely desired to notice the advantage of not keeping in store a larger supply of articles which are liable to perish or become wasted.

2. But what stores should be kept in hand, and fix what period a supply should be kept on executive duties.*

3. As, however, much will depend in the regularity with which communication is kept up between this place and Calcutta and Rangoon, all proposed changes should be communicated to the Commissariat Officers of the two latter ports; and it would be as well that you furnish an alphabetical list of those now in hand, and the duration of time they will probably last, then note

* Sic in copy.—P. D.

those articles which require to be kept in store here, shewing the quantities and the duration of time for which it may be desirable to keep up a supply.

No. 543, dated 5th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.*

I have the honor to request you will be good enough to furnish me, as soon as possible, with a return shewing the following articles issued for the convicts' use during the past financial year, noting also cost to Government (exclusive of freight, packing, and commission), and the amount received back into the Treasury according to the Treasury Endorsements in the indents, and also what was not paid for (that is not shewn to be paid for on the back of the indents). From this return all military and police issues are to be excluded, and only those issues for convicts' use shewn. If you cannot separate from the general issues for convicts those made for the use of free residents, never mind, include them; but note approximately the number of free persons who partake of the supplies issued to bunneahs.

Return shewing the quantity of the undermentioned Stores issued from the Commissariat for convicts during 1866-67, *exclusive of freight, packing, and commission charges.*

Names of Stores.	Unit of weight.	Quantity issued.	Cost to Government at Invoice prices.	Value received back into the Treasury as shewn on the back of receipts.
Atta ...				
Beef ...				
Chenna ...				
Coorah ...				
Dhall ...				
Ghee ...				
Ghoor ...				
Oil (for cooking) ..				
Mutton ...				
Pork ..				
Rice ...				
Salt ...				
Sugar ...				
Wheat ...				
Curry Stuff. Chillies ..				
Cloves ..				
Cardamums ...				
Coriander Seed ...				
Garlic ...				
Ginger ...				
Onions ...				
Pepper ...				
Turmeric ...				
Tamarind ...				
Spices ...				

No. 112, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to forward a return of all articles issued to convict bunneahs in 1866-67, as called for in your letter No. 543, dated 9th May, shewing cost to Government. I have taken an average of the rates throughout the year. The only item not paid for is tamarind.

2. I believe a few of the free residents purchase articles from the convict bunneahs, and the whole of the free Police at out-posts. Troops are rationed by the Commissariat.

Return shewing the quantity of the undermentioned Stores issued from the Commissariat for convicts during the year 1866-67, exclusive of freight, commission, and packing charges.

Articles.		Quantity issued for twelve months in 1866-67.			Average rate at Calcutta, exclusive of charges.				Approximate cost to Government at invoice rates.			Remarks
Ajwan ...	lbs.	58	0	0	0	2	0	per lb.	7	4	0	
Alum ...	"	18	8	0	0	10	0	"	11	9	0	
Assafœtida ...	"	1	0	0	2	8	0	"	2	8	0	
Attah ..	"	3,15,354	0	0	5	0	0	per md.	19,709	0	0	
Beams, Iron, for scales, Copper,	No.	9			4	0	0	each	36	0	0	
Beetlenut ...	lbs.	1,100	0	0	11	0	0	per 100 lbs.	121	0	0	
Bolts, Iron ...	No.	8			0	12	0	each.	6	0	0	
Borax ...	lbs.	18	8	0	0	4	0	per lb.	4	10	0	
Buckets, Wooden ...	No.	12			1	4	0	each.	15	0	0	
Camphor ...	lbs.	18	0	0	1	0	0	per lb.	18	0	0	
Cardamum .	"	88	0	0	2	12	0	"	242	0	0	
Calajeera ...	"	50	0	0	0	1	0	"	3	2	0	
Chalk ...	"	52	0	0	1	8	0	per 100 lbs.	0	12	0	
Chenna ...	"	4,11,207	0	0	3	8	0	per md.	18,115	0	0	
Chillies ...	"	6,129	0	0	9	0	0	per 100 lbs.	551	0	0	
Choorah ...	"	21,364	0	0	6	12	0	"	1,441	0	0	
Cheritta ...	"	11	0	0	0	4	0	per lb.	2	14	0	
Cinnamon ...	"	72	0	0	0	9	0	"	40	0	0	
Cloves ...	"	185	0	0	0	4	0	"	46	4	0	
Cloth, American, 2½ cubits ...	pieces	477			10	12	0	per piece.	5,127	0	0	
Ditto, American, 2 cubits ...	"	176			7	4	0	"	1,276	0	0	
Ditto, Book Muslins ...	"	10			1	12	0	"	17	8	0	
Ditto, Long ...	"	268			10	0	0	"	2,680	0	0	
Ditto, Ditto Blue ...	"	84			11	14	0	"	987	0	0	
Ditto, Jaconet ...	"	330			4	12	0	"	1,567	0	0	
Ditto, Mull Mull ...	"	227			4	8	0	"	1,021	0	0	
Ditto, Nainoo ...	"	304			3	8	0	"	1,064	0	0	
Ditto, Jean American ...	"	15			21	0	0	"	315	0	0	
Ditto, Saloo ...	"	88			9	0	0	"	792	0	0	
Ditto, Dhooty ...	No.	12			1	2	0	each	13	8	0	
Ditto, Muslin ...	pieces	145			4	0	0	per piece.	580	0	0	
Ditto, Chintz ...	"	30			8	0	0	"	240	0	0	
Coffee ...	lbs.	40	0	0	0	7	0	per lb.	17	0	0	
Coriander Seed ...	"	4,234	0	0	3	0	0	per 100 lbs.	127	0	0	
Cummin Seed ...	"	976	0	0	20	0	0	"	195	0	0	
Curry Stone and Roller ...	set	2			3	0	0	each.	6	0	0	
Cutch ...	lbs.	360	0	0	16	0	0	per 100 lbs.	57	0	0	
Dholl ..	"	4,88,988	0	0	4	8	0	"	22,004	8	0	
Files ...	No.	3			1	8	0	each.	4	8	0	
Flannel, Blue ...	yards	26			1	4	0	per yard.	32	0	0	
Ditto, Europe ...	"	26			1	2	6	"	29	0	0	
Flour, Wheat ...	lbs.	10,483	0	0	5	0	0	per maund	655	0	0	
Fuller's Earth ...	"	9,944	0	0	3	12	0	per 100 lbs.	372	0	0	
Garlic ...	"	1,203	0	0	8	4	0	"	99	0	0	
Ghee ...	"	1,22,006	0	0	30	0	0	"	36,600	0	0	
Ghoor ...	"	80,901	0	0	5	4	0	"	4,247	0	0	
Gimblets ...	No.	2			0	8	0	each.	1	0	0	
Ginger, dried ...	lbs.	94	0	0	10	4	0	per 100 lbs.	9	0	0	
Glasses for windows ...	No.	36			0	2	0	each.	4	8	0	
Glass Paper ...	sheets	24			0	2	0	"	3	0	0	
Goglets ...	No	14			0	1	0	"	0	14	0	
Gum ...	lbs.	4	0	0	31	0	0	per 100 lbs.	1	0	0	
Glue, China ...	"	3	0	0	55	0	0	"	1	8	0	
Hammers ...	No.	2			1	0	0	each.	2	0	0	
Hasps and Staples, brass ...	"	4			0	8	0	"	2	0	0	
Hinges, Iron ...	"	80			0	5	6	"	27	8	0	
Ditto, Brass ...	"	16			0	8	0	"	8	0	0	
Hides ...	"	50			3	12	0	"	187	0	0	
Honey ...	lbs.	49	0	0	0	8	0	per lb.	24	8	0	
Hooks, Iron, for windows ...	No.	6			0	8	0	each.	3	0	0	
Kunoys, Iron ...	"	589			1	0	0	"	589	0	0	
Ladles, Iron ...	"	4			0	1	0	"	0	4	0	
Lead ...	lbs.	87	4	0	0	4	0	per lb.	27	0	0	
Locks, Brass for boxes ...	No.	3			1	4	0	"	3	12	0	
Maithee ...	lbs.	1,308	0	0	30	4	0	per 100 lbs.	395	0	0	
Mussocks ...	No.	1			2	7	0	each.	2	7	0	
Mustard Seed ...	lbs.	412	0	0	0	2	0	per lb.	51	8	0	
Nails, Shingle ...	"	13	0	0	0	6	0	"	4	14	0	
Ditto, Iron, of sizes ...	"	19	0	0	0	4	0	"	4	12	0	
Oil, Castor ...	"	1,288	0	0	12	8	0	per 100 lbs.	159	0	0	
Ditto, Cocoanut ...	"	1,768	0	0	22	0	0	"	388	0	0	
Ditto, Gingelly ...	"	589	0	0	25	0	0	"	147	0	0	

Return showing the quantity of the undermentioned Stores issued from the Commissariat for convicts during the year 1866-67, *exclusive of freight, commission, and packing charges.*—(Concluded).

Articles.		Quantity issued for twelve months in 1866-67.	Average rate at Calcutta, exclusive of charges.		Approximate cost to Government at Invoice Rates.	Remarks.
Oil, Linseed ...	lbs.	18 0 0	1 0 0	per lb.	18 0 0	
Ditto, Mustard ...	"	60,288 0 0	13 0 0	per 100 lbs.	7,837 0 0	
Onions ..	"	7,029 0 0	3 12 0	"	263 0 0	
Paddy ...	"	18,009 0 0	2 8 0	"	450 0 0	
Paint, Black ...	"	14 0 0	14 0 0	per cwt.	1 12 0	
Ditto, Blue ...	"	4 0 0	14 0 0	"	0 8 0	
Ditto, Green ...	"	66 0 0	14 0 0	"	10 14 0	
Ditto, White ...	"	2 0 0	14 0 0	"	0 4 0	
Peas ...	"	2,171 0 0	3 8 0	per 100 lbs.	75 0 0	
Pepper ...	"	1,128 0 0	15 8 0	"	174 0 0	
Planes, Jack ...	No.	1	5 8 0	each.	5 8 0	
Potatoes ..	lbs.	4,880 0 0	4 8 0	per 100 lbs.	219 0 0	
Pots, Brass ...	lbs.	3,563 14 0	55 0 0	per cwt.	1,750 0 0	
Ditto, Copper ...	"	112 0 0	75 0 0	"	75 0 0	
Raisins or Grapes ..	"	28 0 0	1 8 0	per lb.	42 0 0	
Rattan, bundles ..	No.	9	0 4 0	each	2 4 0	
Rice ...	lbs.	22,98,644 0 0	4 4 0	per 100 lbs.	97,692 0 0	
Rope, Coir ...	"	46 0 0	0 4 0	per lb.	11 8 0	
Sago ..	"	4 0 0	0 5 6	"	1 6 0	
Salamoniac ...	"	9 0 0	0 8 0	"	4 8 0	
Salt ...	"	23,728 0 0	6 0 0	per 100 lbs.	1,423 0 0	
Saltpetre ...	"	2 0 0	0 2 0	per lb.	0 4 0	
Saws, Hand ...	No.	1	3 8 0	each.	3 8 0	
Scales, Copper, Country ...	"	3	2 0 0	"	6 0 0	
Ditto, Europe ...	"	5	9 0 0	"	45 0 0	
Screws ...	"	1,217	0 4 0	doz,	406 0 0	
Sheep Skins ...	"	86	0 6 0	each.	32 0 0	
Sheets, Brass ...	lbs.	68 0 0	1 0 0	per lb.	6 8 0	
Shoes ...	pairs.	225	1 0 0	per pair.	225 0 0	
Soap, Country ...	lbs.	1,661 0 0	14 8 0	per cwt.	215 0 0	
Soapnut ...	"	312 0 0	14 0 0	"	39 0 0	
Soojee ...	"	10 0 0	0 2 0	per lb.	1 4 0	
Spectacles ...	No.	2	1 3 0	each.	2 6 0	
Sugar ...	lbs.	1,32,067 0 0	14 4 0	per 100 lbs.	18,819 0 0	
Sulphur ...	"	1 0 0	0 2 0	per lb.	0 2 0	
Sutteringees ..	No.	2	1 12 0	each.	3 8 0	
Tallow ...	lbs.	1 0 0	1 0 0	"	1 0 0	
Tamarind ...	"	50,534 0 0	8 12 0	per 100 lbs.	4,421 9 0	
Tar, Coal ...	"	14 0 0	45 0 0	cask of 90 lbs	7 0 0	
Tavahs, Iron ...	No.	12	1 0 0	each.	12 0 0	
Tea ...	lbs.	24 0 0	1 0 0	per lb.	24 0 0	
Thread, Linen ...	"	13 0 0	2 0 0	"	26 0 0	
Tobacco, Eating ...	"	2,658 0 0	6 0 0	per 100 lbs.	159 0 0	
Ditto, Smoking ...	"	57,636 0 0	6 8 0	"	2,436 0 0	
Turmeric ...	"	2,113 0 0	8 4 0	"	174 0 0	
Turpentine ...	"	15 0 0	0 12 0	per lb.	10 12 0	
Twine, Europe ...	"	112 0 0	0 12 0	"	84 0 0	
Vinegar ...	"	207 0 0	0 2 0	"	25 14 0	
Wax, Bees' ...	"	1 0 0	60 0 0	per cwt.	0 8 0	
Weights, Brass ..	sets.	1	11 0 0	per set.	11 0 0	
Ditto, Iron ...	"	5	5 0 0	"	25 0 0	
Wheat ...	lbs.	8,07,202 0 0	4 8 0	per seer.	36,324 0 0	
			Total, Rupees ...		2,96,147 0 0	
Total value paid into the Treasury for the above supplies ...		... ...		Rupees ...	2,37,565 5 8	
Loss to Government		... ...		Rupees ...	58,581 10 4	

Commissariat Office,
Port Blair, 11th May 1867.

(Sd.) A. F. LAUGHTON, Lieut.,
Sub-Asst. Commissary General.

No. 371, dated 25th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, with reference to the statement of shipment of articles now being prepared by you, to request you will note opposite each item—1*st*, those which are especially for Government Departments, such as Public Works, Commissariat, Marine, &c.,

2nd, those for prisoners; *3rd*, those which are for convict shop-keepers, and which are paid for; *4th*, those which are for Government servants or free population; and *5th*, what is the cost price of each article. Such items as you are doubtful about, the Superintendent will be asked to note.

No. 76, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT. A. F. LAUGHTON, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to inform you, in reference to your memo. No. 371, dated 25th April, that I have despatched the statement of the shipment of stores to the Superintendent, with all the information called for inserted.

No. 125.

Received from Commander, H. M. Steamer "Arracan," the undermentioned unexpended provisions &c., shipped by the Commissariat Officer at Rangoon, for the use of 110 *Europeans and* 19 *Natives of the Detachment* 2-24*th Regiment proceeding to Port Blair, which will be accounted for in my Stock Return for January*, 1867.

ARTICLES.		QUANTITY.			REMARKS.
Biscuit	lbs.	99	10	0	
Rice	"	142	0	0	
Flour, Wheat	"	9	0	0	
Dholl	"	27	12	0	
Salt	"	2	8	0	
Sugar	"	11	7	0	
Curry Stuff	"	2	5	0	
Onions	"	1	12	0	
Beetlenut	"	1	6	0	
Pepper	"	0	6	0	
Garlic	"	0	10	8	
Tamarind	"	8	8	0	
Tobacco, Burmah	"	3	10	0	
Salt Fish	"	5	13	0	
Ghee	"	4	8	0	
Tea	"	1	12	0	
Mustard, Europe	"	1	8	0	
Lime Juice	"	2	0	0	
Preserved Potatoes	"	0	12	0	
Beef, Salt	"	28	0	0	
Pork, Salt	"	44	0	0	
Vinegar	"	32	0	0	
Bags, Gunny, empty	Nos.	12			
Canister, Tin, empty...	"	1			
Kegs, wooden	"	2			
Chatties, earthen	"	1			
Barrels, empty	"	2			
Arrack or Rum	Gallons	2	7	drs.	
Bottles, empty	Quarts	5			
Pipes, empty	No.	1			

COMMISSARIAT STORES,
Port Blair, 10*th January* 1867.

(Signed) A. F. LAUGHTON, LIEUT.,
Sub-Asst. Commissary General.

No. 126.

Received from Commander, Ship "Marchioness of Londonderry," the following three months' Reserve Stock shipped by the Commissariat at Calcutta, for the use of 181 *convicts proceeding to Port Blair, which will be accounted for in my Stock Return for January* 1867*t*

ARTICLES.		QUANTITY.			REMARKS.
Rice	lbs.	12,217	8	0	
Attah	"	10,181	4	0	
Dholl of sorts	"	6,108	12	0	
Oil, Mustard	"	678	12	0	
Salt	"	509	1	0	
Onions	"	101	12	0	Unserviceable.
Ginger, Green	"	101	12	0	
Garlic	"	101	12	0	
Chillies	"	101	12	0	
Turmeric	"	101	12	0	
Bags, Gunny, empty...	No.	296			
Cases, empty	"	7			
Canisters, Tin, empty	"	28			

COMMISSARIAT STORES,
Port Blair, 28*th January*, 1867.

(Signed) A. F. LAUGHTON, LIEUT.,
Sub-Asst. Commissary General.

No. 129.

Received from Commander, Ship "Derbyshire," the following unexpended articles shipped by the Commissariat at Calcutta, for the use of 1,000 *Sheep proceeding to Port Blair as per Statement of Provender, dated* 17*th December* 1866, *which will be accounted for in my Stock Return for January* 1867.

Articles.		Quantity.			Remarks.
Hay or Straw	lbs.	24,000	0	0	
Kullie or Chennah	"	12,000	0	0	
Baskets, Rattan	No.	20			
Buckets, Wooden	"	40			
Troughs, Wooden	"	40			
Tubs, Wooden	"	40			

Commissariat Stores, Port Blair, 28th January, 1867. (Sd) A. F. LAUGHTON, Lieut., Sub-Asst. Commissary General.

No. 130.

Received from Commander, Ship "Derbyshire," the undermentioned unexpended provisions shipped by the Commissariat at Calcutta, for the use of 16 *cattle attendants proceeding to Port Blair in charge of* 1,000 *Sheep as per Statement dated* 15*th December* 1866, *which will be accounted for in my Stock Return for January* 1867.

Articles.		Quantity.			Remarks.
Sugar	lbs.	48	0	0	
Pepper	"	1	8	0	
Rice	"	288	0	0	
Dholl	"	48	0	0	
Turmeric	"	3	0	0	
Garlic	"	3	0	0	
Onions	"	3	0	0	
Chennah...	"	24	0	0	
Tamarind	"	48	0	0	
Ghee	"	24	0	0	
Oil, Mustard	"	6	13	0	
Salt	"	12	0	0	
Tobacco, Eating	"	8	0	0	
Tobacco, Smoking	"	16	0	0	
Chillies	"	3	0	0	
Cuth	"	1	8	0	
Beetlenut	"	7	8	0	
Sheets, Iron ... ... No. 1 or	"	16	12	0	
Bar Iron for fire place ...	No.	5			
Pots, Copper, with cover .. No. 2 or	lbs.	74	0	0	
Ladles, Iron	No.	2			
Fire place	"	1			
Scales, Copper, Europe	"	1			
Weights Iron, from 4 lbs. to ½ oz. set 1, or No. 9 or	lbs.	7	15	12	

Commissariat Stores, Port Blair, 28th January, 1867. (Sd) A. F. LAUGHTON, Lieut., Sub-Asst. Commissary General.

No. 131.

Received from Commissariat Department, Calcutta, the following articles per ship "Derbyshire," as per Invoice No. 236, *dated* 17*th December* 1866, *which will be accounted in my Stock Return for January,* 1867.

Articles.		Quantity.			Remarks.
Ale	gallons.	2,600			
Porter	"	2,600			
Coffee	lbs.	5 700	0	0	
Biscuits	"	11,100	0	0	
Soojee	"	9,300	0	0	
Mustard, Europe	"	32	0	0	
Tobacco, American	"	50	0	0	
Rice, Moonghee	"	1,96,000	0	0	
Dholl, Urhur	"	5,13,856	0	0	
Oil, Mustard	"	5,400	0	0	
Chennah or Gram	"	5,09,320	0	0	
Wheat	"	74,500	0	0	
Choorah	"	15,000	0	0	
Chillies	"	5,400	0	0	
Beetlenuts	"	1,452	0	0	
Coriander Seed	"	1,000	0	0	
Cummin Seed or Jeerah	"	3,800	0	0	
Menthee	"	500	0	0	
Garlic	"	500	0	0	

Received from Commissariat Department, Calcutta, the following articles per ship "Derbyshire" as per Invoice No. 236, dated 17th December, 166, which will be accounted in my Stock Return for January 1867.—(Concluded.)

Articles.		Quantity.			Remarks.
Benjamin	lbs.	500	0	0	
Leaves, Sennah	"	100	9	0	
Gum Arabic	"	50	0	0	
Glue, China	"	50	0	0	
Chloride of Lime	"	900	0	0	
Ghoor	"	36,637	0	0	
Sugar	"	57,919	0	0	
Candles	"	100	0	0	
Chalk Line	"	50	0	0	
Tin, Pure	"	50	0	0	
Planes, Smoothing	No.	50			
Rules, 2 feet	"	50			
Shears, Cutting Wool	"	4			
Spoke Shaves	"	12			
Locks, pad, brass, with keys	"	50			
Mamooties	"	600			
Wedges, Iron	"	249			
Axes, Chira, with helves	"	228			
Lanterns, Barrack	"	26			
Cloth, Long	pieces	200			
Cloth, Flannel, blue... ...	yds.	500			
Cloth, Mull Mull	pieces.	100			
Cloth, Jaconet	"	200			
Cloth, Dungree	"	100			
Cloth, American	"	900			
Suttringees	No.	500			
Blankets, Country	"	6,000			
Dhoties	"	500			
Sheep	"	1,000			
Ghee	lbs.	66,200	0	0	
Hogsheads, empty	No.	311½			
Bags, Gunny, empty	"	12,308			
Cases, wooden, empty	"	955			
Kegs, Ditto ditto	"	11			
Bales, Gunny, ditto	"	105			
Tea	lbs.	740	4	0	

Commissariat Stores, Port Blair, 31st January, 1867.

(Sd.) A. F. LAUGHTON, Lieut., *Sub-Asst. Commissary General.*

No. 132.

Received from Commissariat Department, Calcutta, the following articles per ship "Marchioness of Londonderry" as per Invoice No. 237, dated 19th December, 1866, which will be accounted for in my Stock Return for January, 1867.

Articles.		Quantity.	Remarks.
Biscuits	lbs.	8,000	
Mustard, Europe	"	18	
Rice, Moonghee	"	664,608	
Dholl, Urhur	"	9,408	
Ghee	"	83,800	
Oil, Mustard	"	13,550	
Chennah or Gram	"	4,200	
Ghoor	"	68,206	
Sugar	"	11,804	
Tamarind	"	4,000	
Choorah	"	20,500	
Chillies	"	10,900	
Beetlenuts	"	5,748	
Turmeric	"	5,400	
Onions	"	15,700	
Potatoes	"	3,000	
Scales, Copper, Europe, ...	pair	30	
Pots, Copper or Dekchies No. 100 or ...	lbs.	948	
Kurrys, Iron	"	1,002	
Lanterns, hand	"	50	
Tarpaulins	"	50	
Tape, Measuring	"	12	
Varnish	"	50	
Saws, Timber or Pit...	No.	10	
Borers, Bung	"	8	
Ladles, Iron	"	10	
Tables, messing, with Tressels	"	2	
Cases, wooden, empty	"	1,140	
Bags, Gunny, empty	"	6,758	
Hogsheads, empty	"	190	
Bales, Gunny, empty	"	10	
Baskets, rattan, for Potatoes and Onions ...	"	217	

Commissariat Stores, Port Blair, The 31st January, 1867.

(Signed) A. F. LAUGHTON, Lieut., *Sub-Asst. Commissary General.*

No. 133.

Received from Commissariat Department, Moulmein, the following articles per steamer "Quang Tung," as per Invoice dated 12th January, 1867, which will be accounted for in my Stock Return for January, 1867.

Articles.	Quantity.	Remarks.
Dhaos, Burmah ... ... No.	30	

Commissariat Stores, Port Blair, The 31st January, 1867.

(Signed) A. F. LAUGHTON, Lieut., Sub-Asst. Commissary General.

No. 134.

Received from Commissariat Department, Rangoon, the following articles per Steamer "Quang" Tung," which will be accounted for in my Stock Return for January, 1867.

Articles.	Quantity.	Remarks.
Bullock ... ... No.	10	

Commissariat Stores, Port Blair, The 31st January, 1867.

(Signed) A. F. LAUGHTON, Lieut., Sub-Asst. Commissary General.

Statement showing the number of Bullocks and Sheep slaughtered for the use of the Troops, &c, in the Commissariat, Port Blair, for the month of January, 1867.

Month and Date.	No. of Bullocks		No. of Sheep		Remarks.
	Slaughtered.	Quantity Produced.	Slaughtered.	Quantity Produced.	
January 1 ...	...	.....	21	362 8	
" 2 ...	1	249 12	10	179 10	
" 3 ..	1	178 8	8	140 0	
" 4 ...	1	202 12	9	149 12	
" 5 ...	1	224 0	7	129 14	
" 6 ...	1	181 8	9	173 8	
" 7 ...	1	223 0	9	171 6	
" 8 ...	1	205 0	7	175 2	
" 9 ...	1	211 0	8	151 12	
" 10 ...	2	354 8	7	125 0	
" 11 ...	1	193 12	8	144 0	
" 12 ...	1	214 8	7	120 0	
" 13 ...	1	187 8	9	171 14	
" 14 ...	1	201 0	8	149 6	
" 15 ...	1	198 8	7	124 12	
" 16 ...	1	166 8	8	130 0	
" 17 ...	1	232 8	7	142 2	
" 18 ...	1	256 0	8	152 14	
" 19 ...	1	170 0	7	150 14	
" 20 ..	1	182 0	11	190 10	
" 21 ...	1	232 0	8	159 10	
" 22 ...	1	213 12	7	125 12	
" 23 ...	1	183 0	9	144 4	
" 24 ...	1	205 0	8	157 0	
" 25 ...	1	179 0	9	169 14	
" 26 ...	1	183 4	8	149 12	
" 27 ...	1	243 4	8	147 6	
" 28 ...	1	175 8	8	145 4	
" 29 ...	1	219 4	8	149 12	
" 30 ...	1	195 0	9	173 14	
" 31 ...	1	203 0	8	152 4	
Total ...	31	6264 4	265	4,909 12	

Commissariat Stores, Port Blair, The 1st February, 1867.

(Signed.) A. F. LAUGHTON, Lieut., Sub-Asst. Commissary General.

Statement of Credits in my Stock Return for January, 1867 arising from Audits of the Accountant General, British Burmah, on my Stock Return for November, 1866.

Articles.	Quantity.	Remarks.
Barrels empty ... ... No.	8	
Soap, Europe Cake .. .. "	1	

Commissariat Stores, Port Blair, The 31st January, 1867.

(Signed.) A. F. LAUGHTON, Lieut., Sub.-Asst. Commissary General.

No. 518, dated 6th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to enquire the daily average number of Sappers, and also of free laborers and convicts of every description, employed in building the stone barracks, from the date of its commencement (please state date) up to this time.

2. You are also requested to be good enough to state when one-half of the building above referred to may be expected to be finished, and also how long it will probably take to finish the second half?

No. 137, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter maked 518, of the 6th instant, making certain enquiries with reference to the stone barrack now in course of construction.

2. In reply, I have the honor to inform you that I referred the subject to the Executive Engineer, and I now enclose two original documents from that Officer which affords all the information.

Statement of Labor for new Stone Barrack at Ross, from the month of September, 1864,* *to April,* 1867.

Date.			Number of Chinese.	Number of Sappers.	Number of Mistries.	Number of Convicts.	Remarks.
September	1864.	...	...	...	...	374	
October	"	...	...	...	...	363	
November	"	...	...	...	...	942	
December	"	...	...	...	...	942	
January	1865.	...	...	...	...	712	
February	"	...	...	...	...	1,988	
March	"	...	...	...	...	1,664	
April	"	...	...	...	...	2,842	
May	"	...	...	...	...	2,006	
June	"	...	2	1,111	366	3,755	
July	"	...	17	904	308	4,394	
August	"	..	62	965	220	4,274	
September	"	...	79	744	183	4,847	
October	"	...	44	828	113	4,396	
November	"	...	62	958	77	5,567	
December	"	...	48	845	49	5,246	
January	1866.	...	38	780	124	5,973	
February	"	...	34	1,026	285	5,624	
March	"	...	32	1,157	602	5,051	
April	"	...	28	1,021	554	6,551	
May	"	...	53	1,158	1,204	6,433	
June	"	...	66	1,215	1,208	6,920	
July	"	...	46	1,413	1,229	6,612	
August	"	..	41	1,506	1,286	7,451	
September	"	...	45	1,352	1,073	7,843	
October	"	...	545	1,051	1,451	6,585	
November	"	...	655	1,422	1,139	7,820	
December	"	...	438	1,480	1,117	7,845	
January	1867.	...	430	1,320	1,206	9,745	
February	"	..	177	1,354	1,156	11,278	
March	"	...	325	1,182	1,148	4,219	
April	"	...	156	1,921	1,280	8,976	
		Total	3,423	26,713	17,378	159,238	

* Date of commencement of work.

(Signed) W. G. CUMMING, Lieut., R. E.
Executive Engineer.

Port Blair,
10th May, 1867.

No. 73.

Memo. from—Lieut. W. G. Cumming, R. E., *Executive Engineer, Port Blair.*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

Forwards information asked for in the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner's letter No. 518, and Superintendent's No. 26 E. E., of the 7th instant.

No. 74, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—Lieut. W. G. Cumming, R. E., *Executive Engineer, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Memo. No. 33 E. E., of yesterday's date, requesting me to forward the information asked for in the 2nd para. of Major Davies' letter No. 518 of the 6th instant.

In reply, I beg to state that one-half of the European Infantry stone barrack on Ross Island may be expected to be finished (with exception of the stone flooring) by about the middle of July, when it can be occupied as a temporary measure by a Sub-Division of the Company of Sappers and Miners, as their sub-divisional barrack must be dismantled to make way for the second half of this building.

2. The second half of the European Infantry barrack will probably take two years from this date until it is completed.

No. 570, dated 13th May, 1867.

Memo. from.—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will have the goodness to inform him whether, considering the pressure for labor which is stated to exist, it will be advisable to continue the erection of the second wing of the stone barrack now being built on Ross Island.

No. 14, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In acknowledging receipt of your Memo. No. 570, of the 13th instant, requesting me to inform you whether, considering the pressure for labor which is stated to exist, it will be advisable to continue the 2nd wing of the stone barrack now being built on Ross Island, I have the honor to inform you that, as the European troops are now barracked in good teak wood quarters, and as half the Company of Sappers will be shortly accommodated in the completed wing of the stone barracks, the remaining half of the Company being in occupation of a good teak wood building, there is no longer any necessity for pressing on the construction of the southern wing of the stone barracks. I do not, however, recommend that the work should be stopped, but that it should be continued with such labor as the Sappers and free stone-masons can give upon it, assisted by say 100 to 200 convict coolies daily. This arrangement will enable me to make some further reduction from the convict population on Ross Island, thereby giving more labor for useful works at out-stations.

No. 466, dated 23rd May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that I observe the prisoners employed chiefly in the Public Works Department carry heavy stones and pints of water on a stick, supported on two men's shoulders, which appears a good plan, but very often it happens, that one sees convicts carrying a few shingles or bricks or tiles on the head. This may be an easy way of carrying some loads, but it sometimes appears a wasteful way, as generally a prisoner with a load on his head travels very slowly. I merely invite attention to the matter.

No. 99, dated 4th May, 1867.

Memo. from—Lieut. Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In acknowledging the Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 466, of the 3rd instant, the undersigned has the honor to state that he forwarded a copy thereof to the Executive Engineer drawing his attention to the same. See copy attached.

Enclosed is a copy of reply received from Lieutenant Cumming.

Orders have been issued directing that the coolies who have been observed to walk slowly be made to walk faster.

No. 57, dated 3rd May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Executive Engineer, Port Blair.

I have the honor to forward enclosed for your information copy of a Memo. from Chief Commissioner's Office, marked No. 466 of the 3rd instant, and with reference thereto to

invite your attention to the remarks laid down there by Major Davies, with reference to what he considers to be a wasteful way as regards expenditure of labor as observable in the conveyance by convicts of bricks, shingles, or tiles on the head. Major Davies also notices that prisoners thus loaded travel very slowly. Major Davies invites attention to this matter.

2. I had myself long ago observed what Major Davies brings to notice, but refrained from noticing it, less the same should be considered an interference. I shall feel obliged if you will inform me, for the Chief Commissioner's information, whether labor would not be more economised in the conveyance of such material as shingles, bricks, tiles, &c., either by carts, wheel-barrows, baskets, or in any other manner that you consider just.

No. 56, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—Lieut. W. G. Cumming, R. E., *Executive Engineer, Port Blair,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor to acknowledge your letter No. 57, of yesterday's date, together with copy of Memo. No. 466, from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, to your address, both with reference to the fact that convicts employed in the Public Works Deparment have been frequently seen carrying shingles, tiles, &c., on their heads to sites, and walking very slowly with such small loads.

In reply, I beg to state that I have directed the Public Works Supervisor on this Island to make every convict, when leaving parade in the morning, carry up with him a supply of shingles, tiles, &c., on his head towards the nearest site in the direction in which his day's work lies. This plan you will readily perceive entails no waste of labor, as these convicts would have to walk from the parade to their work, whether they carried a load with them or not.

I see no reason why convicts, with a small load of shingles, bricks, or tiles on their heads, should be compelled to walk slowly. I have noticed this fact often myself, and attribute it entirely to the negligence of the toledars or parrawallahs in charge of the squads of men thus employed. In other cases, when materials have to be conveyed over tolerably level roads, I think the employment of carts and wheel-barrows would be a great saving of labor, the few carts belonging to the Public Works Department are thus employed in the vicinity of the lime-kiln and stone barrack ; but when steep hills have to be ascended, I doubt whether natives of India could do more work with carts and wheel-barrows than by the ordinary methods they employ in their own country for the conveyance of materials from place to place.

No. 544, dated 9th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to acknowledge Lieut. Laughton's No. 73 of 3rd instant to you, forwarding a list of stores in hand and supplied during the past year. The list seems a very heavy one, and there are items which appear unnecessary. I have not had time to go through the whole list, but I will note a few heads. Why were 100 beds stuffed with coir procured from Calcutta ? Why could they not have been made up in the Settlement?

Chillies.—Some 2,800 lbs. of chillies were procured from Calcutta. When they grow here most luxuriantly, why were self-supporters not encouraged to produce them ?

Blankets, Country.—There were 3,484 of these in store on 1st July, 1866. Why were so many as 12,000 more indented for ?

Caps.—I think 1,000 for hospital. Could not these have been made up here by some of the old men or women.

Cloth.—Fine cloth of sorts, a large variety. This appears wholly unnecessary, and the wearing of expensive clothes by convicts should undoubtedly be discouraged.

The only other item I shall notice is oil. The supplies of this season embraces cocoanut oil, besides 13,051 lbs. in store, 73,000 lbs. were indented for, of which 53,000 were supplied costing nearly Rs. 10,000.

Mustard Oil.—Of this there was in store on 1st January, 1866, 61,508 lbs.; 131,000 lbs. were indented for during the year, of which 98,159 appear to have been received, the cost of which was between Rs. 13 and 14,000. This last item is put down as used for street lamps and barracks. I do not know how much may be in store, but I know that in the Rangoon Jail, which is very well lighted, the annual cost for about 1,000 prisoners is Rs. 780 a year.

No. 160, dated 14th May, 1867

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 544 of the 9th instant, written consequent upon your receipt through me of a communication from Lieutenant

Laughton, Sub-Assistant Commissary General, No. 73 of the 3rd instant, to my address, with which was forwarded a list of stores in hand and supplied during the year. You note sundry items from that list on which you want information. I have forwarded a copy of your letter to Lieutenant Laughton, and have received his reply thereto, copy of which I enclose for your information.

With regard to Beds, it will not be necessary for me to add anything to Lieutenant Laughton's explanation.

Regarding the Chillies,—I beg to state that I have given every encouragement to self-supporters to grow them, having distributed from time to time large quantities of chillie seeds; such as have sprung up into trees have generally thriven well, but hitherto the convicts have not been invited to supply the Commissariat. I shall assist Lieutenant Laughton in an endeavor to induce them to do so.

Items Blankets and Caps do not need remark from me.

Cloth.—Lieutenant Laughton will be requested not to procure any further supply of fine cloths.

Oil, Cocoanut—On this head I should remark that I had requested Lieutenant Laughton to procure me supplies of oil for the Cocos Light-house. You will observe Lieutenant Laughton states that consumption is decreasing here. I doubt not that, before the end of the year, a large quantity of the stock in hand will be transferred for Light House use.

Mustard Oil.—You will see from Lieutenant Laughton's letter that there is a large consumption of this article. With regard to the use of the mustard oil for lighting, I beg to state that I am now trying castor oil as an experiment, which I believe I shall find a still less inexpensive article.

No. 126, dated 13th May, 1867.

From—Lieut. A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Memorandum No. 37, forwarding copy of letter No. 544, dated 9th May, 1867, to your address, from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner on the subject of the quantity of supplies kept on hand.

2. An order of Government exists that six months' reserve stock of provisions should be kept on hand; with a view to doing this, I have kept one or two months' supply in excess for immediate use. This rule I have observed in the supply of all articles; and with those which are not of a perishable nature, I have now been careful to limit the supply to within a few months.

3. Major Davies having brought to my notice that it is virtually a loss to Government sinking money for any period longer than can possibly be helped, and considering that the orders of Government will be carried out if I limit my supply on hand to six months' stock of all things without keeping two months in excess, I am now arranging to reduce my supplies to that limit; and when I hear the result of my application for sanction to reduce it yet further, I shall then act according to instructions as may be received.

4. The articles particularized by Major Davies are as follows:—

Beds.—These were indented for, and I think countermanded; at any rate they were not received, as a reference to the statement will show. Beds have for some time been made here.

Chillies.—Self-supporters do not produce them; I am therefore obliged to import them.

Blankets.—In six months I found nearly 6,000 were issued, I intended therefore at that rate of consumption, including reserve stock.

Caps, skull, have been erroneously entered in the statement as purchased; they were made up here from materials supplied from my stores, the *dirzee* here being only paid.

Cloth.—I supply every thing that is asked for; if this is considered unnecessary I shall stop doing so.

Cocoanut Oil.—I calculated my consumption at 4,000 lbs., and indented accordingly, with reserve stock. Now the consumption is decreasing in consequence of mustard oil being substituted for it.

Mustard Oil.—There is a large consumption of this, convicts also consume it (this fact was omitted in my statement) to the extent of about 60,000 lbs. per annum. The cost to the State for lighting cannot be calculated from the receipts into store, but from the issue made for this specified purpose.

No. 73, dated 3rd May, 1867.

From—Lieut. A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to forward herewith a return of all stores received by me since 1st January, 1866, as called for in your Memo. No. 13, dated 18th April, 1867.

Return F.

No. 484, dated 4th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to forward you extract, being copy of para. 12 of letter from the Financial Secretary No. 1542, dated 21st March last, on the subject of the Budget estimate for this Settlement for the current year, from which you will perceive the estimate submitted to Government by the Accountant General has been reduced to Rs. 1,66,644. In forwarding this extract, I am directed to state that the establishing an efficient check on the expenditure of Port Blair is a matter which has long been considered a desideratum. At present a grave responsibility is borne entirely by the Superintendent, which, in other departments of the State, is shared among several responsible Officers. I have been waiting for some time in hopes of receiving a list of the stores received last year by the Commissariat Department, to enable me to judge of the description of goods which go to swell the miscellaneous items of expenditure, in this Settlement, to such an alarming extent as they do. I am confident these can be much reduced. In short, from what I see here, many articles of luxury are used among the convicts, whereas their requirements should be restricted to real necessaries. Freightage is unnecessarily swollen, and from the accumulation of stores, waste and deterioration ensue, Government in one way or another paying for all. In the mean time I have called for and received copies of the form of indent in the Commissariat Department at present in use here. This form of indent is so extremely vague, that it is impossible to trace to what branch of the service the stores indented for are intended to be applied; nor, indeed, is it possible to ascertain whether the stores are intended for public or private use. In fact, the system of expenditure requires to be brought into better order, and I now desire to invite your earnest attention to the whole question.

2. It appears that, although all contingent expenditure must be countersigned by the Chief Commissioner before it can be admitted in the Imperial Accounts, yet that the Chief Commissioner has little or no information regarding the details of many of those charges, not even the ordinary vouchers, and that no record is kept in his Office of the expenditure passed by him from month to month. From this it is clear that hitherto the contingent charges of Port Blair have altogether escaped proper examination and check. As the principal object of the appointment of a countersigning Officer is to ensure a careful examination of all vouchers, submitted in support of charges against Government, to perform this duty correctly, a controlling Officer must keep an accurate record of all charges admitted by him, as without this aid, similar items may be passed month after month without detection.

3. To remedy these wants, it is proper you should submit vouchers for every entry in your contingent bills, except in those cases where vouchers are manifestly unnecessary; while in my Office, registers should be opened in which details of the sums passed month by month should be regularly entered and initialled. The vouchers should be filed in my Office, for future reference if required, while the countersigned bill only should be despatched to the Accountant General. By this arrangement the Chief Commissioner would always have at hand information regarding the contingent expenditure of the Island. The fixed charges, or those sanctioned by the Government of India, and which cannot be exceeded, the Chief Commissioner would not care to look into month by month, as they are regularly checked and audited in the Accountant General's Office under fixed rules. Bills and abstracts on this account should therefore be sent direct to the Accountant General's Office.

4. As regards checks, the first step is the careful scrutiny of the Budget. When once a large sum of money has been sanctioned as a grant to a Department for the expenditure of the coming year, it is pretty certain that nearly the whole of that grant will be availed of. It therefore becomes advisable to examine very closely into the details of Budget grants before they are submitted by the local administration to the Government of India for sanction. I think, I may say that this has never been done as yet in the case of Port Blair. In the present year your Budget estimate was not received by the Accountant General until after the Provincial Budget had been compiled and despatched to the Government of India, approximate figures were therefore taken. In the Budget for the coming year fixed charges only were checked by the Accountant General, while the contingent charges were, I believe, unnoticed by the Officiating Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, although several items certainly seemed to invite inquiry. I will take the item called "subsistence of convicts." The estimate of this in 1866-67 was Rs. 2,06,500, in 1867-68 Rs. 4,39,000, and no sufficient necessity was shown for the great increase. I may here mention that this so-called subsistence, which most persons would suppose was food, is in many cases subsistence allowance, in other words, *salary*. It should at least be called subsistence money. The miscellaneous items also are very heavy. It is this kind of charge, as well as clothing of convicts, medicine, marine contingencies, and so on, each and all of which require the closest scrutiny before acceptance by the Chief Commissioner, which necessitates some further check than at present exists, but the Chief Commissioner's Office is evidently not the best one to afford an efficient Budget check over details. This can best be done in Offices where comparisons can be effected. Your estimate for cost of diet and clothing would perhaps be best checked by the Inspector General of Prisons in British Burmah; of medicines by the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals; of marine by the Master Attendant of Rangoon, and so forth, before any one of

them is admitted by the Local Government. At present the Superintendent of Port Blair holds a position, that is I believe without parallel in the whole of India. His Budgets are unchallenged by any Officer competent to unravel or check them. The issues of the Commissariat, really his own issues, are countersigned by himself as controlling Officer, while his own contingencies are confessedly passed on the most imperfect information, and the indents on the several departments are of no value whatever as shewing to what purpose the articles indented for are to be applied.

5. The supervision of the Port Blair expenditure by an independent Officer must not cease however with the submission of the Budget. The annual estimates must necessarily contain many contingencies which must be provided for, but which by no means necessarily require to be ever purchased, much less disbursed during the year. The greater care is therefore requisite, throughout the whole year, to see not only that charges not actually required are not billed for, as well as that Budget grants are not exceeded. This can be done only by adhering to the plan proposed in my 3rd para.

6. Again, it is highly advisable that the Superintendent of Port Blair should be required to employ the Commissariat Department for the purchase of stores usually supplied by that Department. I should say also he should obtain his medicines from the Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Rangoon, and his marine requirements through the Master Attendant at Rangoon. On no account should he purchase stores of any kind, except through a Department of the Government service situated at the place of purchase.

7. There is one other point to be noticed, and that is :—The Commissariat Officer in Rangoon states he would ordinarily be able to supply stores by contract to Port Blair cheaper than he can to the Military Department, for the simple reason that supplies for Port Blair are required in the gross, whereas in the Military Department the fact of having to supply articles chiefly daily and *frequently* at stated hours, and the uncertainty of the exact quantity required, entails both loss and trouble to the contractor, but to effect what is required for Port Blair, exact information must be furnished some time in advance, say, at least three months before the articles are required. At present the supplies for Port Blair purchased at Rangoon certainly cost more than those for the Military supply, for want of proper and timely arrangements being made beforehand.

8 I recapitulate in detail the several suggestions referred to above, and which appear to be absolutely necessary if any real check is to be exercised by the Chief Commissioner over the expenditure of the Island.

I.—Budget estimate to be submitted to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner early in September, so that it may be returned for explanation if necessary.

II.—Estimate of live stock and stores for one year's use only to accompany the Budget estimate. Separate columns for those required from Calcutta and those from British Burmah to be entered. A memo. should be attached showing the probable quantity required monthly.

III.—Estimated number of convicts on 1st April, 1st October, and 31st March of the year budgetted for.

IV—Details of Budget to be forwarded to the several Controlling Officers of British Burmah, for report, regarding quantities, rates, &c. &c., *viz.* Deputy Inspector General of Hospitals, Inspector General of Police, Inspector General of Prisons, Master Attendant, Rangoon, &c. &c.

V.—Copies of estimates of live stock and stores, when passed by the Chief Commissioner, to be forwarded to the Commissariat Officer at Calcutta and Rangoon.

VI.—Audit registers to be opened in Chief Commissioner's Office with 13 columns, one for each month of the year, and one for sanctioned Budget grant. Every entry in the register to be initialled by a special Officer.

VII.—Vouchers always to accompany bills when practicable, when not practicable explanation of cause of absence to be invariably given.

VIII.—No purchases to be made by the Superintendent, except through a Government Officer situated at the place of purchase.

IX.—A proper form of indent to be established, and strictly adhered to, by all indenting Officers, including the Superintendent himself.

X.—Estimates to be framed for the current year, which shall show in separate columns alphabetically arranged, the name, the quantity of stock consumed in past year and cost; quantity of stock in store at commencement of the year; quantity, it is anticipated will be consumed during ensuing year; department and place where it is proposed to procure supplies from, and estimated cost. This information should be given under each Budget head, such as "Military," "Marine," "Medical," "Police," "Convict establishment,"—and so forth.

XI—Anticipatory classified estimates, showing articles in alphabetical order, should be submitted quarterly for articles required in the succeeding quarter to the Officers of the Department, who had the checking of the estimates for the Budget. These Officers would pass their opinion as to whether the estimates, or anticipatory indents as they might be called, appeared satisfactory, and within the Budget

limits, passing them to the Chief Commissioner for his information. Should no exception be taken, these would be returned to the head of the Department who checked them, and articles to the amount passed in the quarterly anticipatory estimates would be available for the Superintendent to draw for.

XII.—It should be a standing rule that no cash is paid out at Port Blair for articles purchased for use of the Settlement without special sanction of the Chief Commissioner. If articles should be purchased at Port Blair (which would rarely happen) it should be understood, they will be paid for by cheque only at the Calcutta or Rangoon Pay Office, after passing through the Chief Commissioner's Office.

XIII.—A return of all receipts either from bunneahs or on account of fees or fines, in short on whatever account, to be posted by the 2nd of each month to the Chief Commissioner, as also a return of disbursments.

9. Anticipating your cordial support in the matter, I am now directed to call upon you to frame an estimate for the current year, according to the following direction :—

1*st*.—You will be good enough to draw up an estimate for all fixed salaried establishments thus :—

Detailed Budget estimates of Establishments for Port Blair for 1867-68.

Head of Service.	Detail of Establishment.	Regimental Pay and Allowance.	Staff or Civil Pay.	Total Military Pay.	Amount paid in 1866-67.	Estimated amount for 1867-68.

Under separate heads should be shown Civil, Military, Marine, Commissariat, Police, &c. &c., and all other establishments for which established scale of pay is sanctioned.

Regarding P. W. D. you will call for their estimate as framed in that Department, and incorporate it in your estimate.

10. For stores you will be good enough to enumerate alphabetically, under the several heads Civil, Military, Marine, Convict Supplies, Commissariat, Police, and whatever heads or sub-heads there may be, every item in store on 1st April, 1866, or purchased during 1866-67, and fill in the estimate according to the following form :—

Detailed Budget Estimate of Stores required for Port Blair, 1867-68, in the *Department.*

Name of article. (Here enumerate alphabetically the name of every single article that was in store on 1st April, 1866, or come into the Island during 1866-67.)	Unit of quantity or number	Quantity in store on 1st April, 1866	Quantity received during 1866-67.	Where obtained from, and rate.	Quantity expended during 1866-67	Balance in hand on 1st April, 1867.	Estimated quantity required for 1867-68.		From whence to be supplied.	Rate at which it is anticipated the articles can be procured.	How to be supplied, i.e. monthly, quarterly, and half-yearly, or in one lump (if the last, state in what month)	Remarks.
							Quantity to be issued without payment.	Quantity to be issued on payment.				

11. As regards the form of indent to be used by you when indenting on any Department, whether in Calcutta, Rangoon, or on any of the Departments here, the following should be brought into use at once :—

Indent on the——————Department for stores required for the use of the——————Department at the Settlement of Port Blair. Dated

Name of Article.	Unit of quantity in No.	Total quantity entered for in Budget for current year.	Quantity already indented for and used during the current year, and estimated value shown in Budget.		Quantity now indented for.	Estimated value of quantity now indented for at Invoice price.	To whom the articles will be made over.	The purpose for which the articles are required, and whether for public or private service.	From what stock supplied, (the Issuing Officer will fill this.)	Balance remaining in store, (Issuing Officer to fill in this.)	*Remarks.*—If to be paid for, the price to be paid in at once, and the cash entered as received by the Issuing Officer in column of Remarks.
			Quantity used.	Value.							

Signature of Receiving Officer. *Signature of Issuing Officer.* *Signature of Indenting Officer.*

The indents to be made out in triplicate, and all signed by the Issuing Officer, one to be returned to the Indenting Officer, one retained by the Issuing Officer, and one sent direct to the Chief Commissioner's Office by the Issuing Officer.

12. The monthly return of all cash receipts on whatever account received to be sent to the Chief Commissioner's Office in the accompanying form :—

Return of Cash received and paid in to the Treasury at Port Blair, for the month of ——————— 1867.

Date.	Name of persons bringing in money.	On what account paid	Amount.			Credited to Imperial or Local Funds.		Balance in Treasury on 31st May, 1867.
			In Silver.	In Token.	In Pice.	Imperial.	Local.	
1st May, 1867.								

Signature of Treasury Officer. *Signature of Inspecting Officer.*

13. Draw out a similar form for disbursement, only write in head of 8th column *Debited to*, and in column 2 the name of person receiving money.

14. The indent and return of receipt and disbursement should have effect from the first of last month; any indent, as yet issued since the 1st ultimo should be called in as directed in para 11. The return of cash receipts and issues should be submitted for the past months as soon as possible.

15. As the Budget estimates for establishments and for stores noted in paras. 9 and 10 will require time (say a fortnight) to prepare, I will not wait for them. What I request now is, to be informed if you see any objections to what has been proposed above.

I enclose two alphabetical lists of stores which may be useful.

No. 528, dated 7th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that, if I understand the system in vogue here aright, there are very few articles (except chains, cables, and a few indigestible items of that sort) which are purchased by the Commissariat Department, for which money in some shape ought not to be returned when they are issued. The entire body of consumers, *viz.*, the free and the prisoner population are supposed to pay (the former direct, and the latter through their bunniahs) each "cash on delivery," for each and every article issued by the Commissariat Department. This being so, your receipts should (exclusive of cost of freight) somewhere nearly balance your departmental disbursements. Is this so or not, and if not, why not?

Now, the expenditure on account of the Commissariat here amounts annually to a very heavy item, several lakhs. I wish you to specify the exact amount of debt incurred by your Department for the past financial year, and then state what you actually received in cash. The difference will certainly represent a loss to, or at least a debit against, Government. I look to you to account for this difference. But as there is nothing like coming to items, I take up your bill dated 15th January, 1867. In this bill is shown the following items among many others, *viz* :—

		Rs.	As.	P.			Rs.	As.	P.
1.	16 lbs of candles ...	16	0	0	4.	8 European cakes Soap	1	0	0
2.	390 Cheroots ...	3	14	0	5.	2 Razors ...	3	0	0
3.	2 Bottles Currants ...	7	0	0	6.	8 Bottles of Pickles...	6	0	0

Now I want to know who ate the eight bottles of pickles; who used the razors and the soap; who ate the currants; who smoked the cheroots, and who burned the candles. Government are asked to pass all these miscellaneous items without asking a question. But I request you will furnish me with copies of the indents for each of the above six items which have been taken at random. Should they all be for the Military Department, and issued under sanctioned rules, that will suffice without further explanation. But from the specimen of indents I have seen, there will probably still be numerous items which have been issued, in which the purpose for which they were to be applied has not been stated. As this Settlement will probably be largely extended, it is as well to have matters placed on a sound footing. I therefore enclose you a form of indent* I propose bringing into use, and request to know if you consider it will be useful in enabling the disposal of the items indented for being traced.

No. 94, dated 8th May, 1867.

From—Lieut. A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 528, dated 7th May, on the subject of the system of issue in vogue here.

2. The only articles for which money is paid into the treasury are those issued to free residents on payment, and also to convict bunniahs. Articles issued to the Marine Department and to hospitals are not paid for, nor do I see any necessity for payment being made. A considerable number of the indents on which I make issues are debitable to "Miscellaneous Contingent." I am not able to say whether money is available from any sources for the adjustment of the value of any of these articles. Of from 250 to 300 indents complied with monthly, about half are debitable to "sale of stock," that is, money value is recovered on them, and the other half to "Miscellaneous Contingent," "Marine," and "Medical," on which no payment is made.

3. I make issues to the Department Public Works as they require them, receiving one indent at the end of the month for the whole, the value of which is paid into the treasury by the Executive Engineer.

4. I do not think my receipts nearly balance the cost of my stores exclusive of freight, as the articles for which payment is not made as above stated, comprise nearly half of my issues. Further, many of those articles for which payment is made are sold at less than cost price, there being a fixed low rate for all the principal articles of food, calculated at what a convict is supposed to be able to pay for them out of his subsistence.

5. You will see therefore that it will be impossible for me to draw up a statement of the kind you wish on which any reliance as to accuracy could be placed.

6. The articles you allude to were issued as follows:—

Candles to hospital and church; cheroots, currants, and pickles were suppled for a dinner given by the Superintendent on Christmas day to the Christian prisoners. The razors and soap were issued to hospitals.

* 7. The object for which these articles are issued is not entered in the indents. It would be well to have it done.

8. I enclose a form of indent slightly different to the one you sent, which will I think answer the purpose equally well, and will be a little simpler, but at the same time I would suggest that "Sale of stock" indents be continued in the present form, as the information to be given in the several columns of the new form is not needed in the case of purchase of stores by private individuals.

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* For form of Indent please *see* letter No. 484, dated 4th May, 1867.

Indent on the Commissariat Department, Port Blair, for Stores required for the use of *Dated Port Blair,* 1867.

1,	2	3.	4	5	7.	8	9	10	11
ARTICLES.	Unit of Number or Quantity indented for.	Total quantity provided for in Budget for current official year.	Quantity already indented for and used during the current year, and estimated value as shown in budget		Value of Quantity now indented for at *Issue rates.*	To whom the articles will be made over	For what purpose required.		REMARKS.
			Quantity	Value			Public	Private	
	lbs. yards No. salary		This column to shew total cost, including freight.		Quantity now indented for This column to show total cost, exclusive of freight, but with 5 per cent added.				Please enter receipt of Treasury Officer for Cash payments

Signature of party receiving the goods

Signature of party issuing the goods

Signature of Indenting Officer.

Signature of Sanctioning Officer,

i e Superintendent

No. 569, dated 9th May, 1867.

From—Major H N Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to forward a revised form of indent in substitution of that sent with my letter No. 484, dated 4th instant. The form should be brought into use from the commencement of the current official year; probably it will be some time before columns 3, 4, 5, and 6, can be filled up, that is, until your alphabetical anticipatory Budget is examined.

Indent on the Commissariat Department, Port Blair, for Stores required for the use of——————Department (or persons)

Dated Port Blair ——————— ——— 186 .

1.	2.	3	4.	5.	6.			7.	8.			9.	10.			11.			12.	13.	14.	15.
Articles.	Unit of number or quantity of the articles.	Total quantity and estimated cost, including freight provided in Budget for current year.		Quantity already indented for and issued during the current year, and estimated value, as per Budget estimate in preceding column.				Quantity now indented for.	Amount value of quantity now indented for at Invoice prices, including all charges.			Passed to debit of what Department.	Amount debited to Government, or cash paid as value of quantity now indented for at issue rates.						To whom the articles are made over.	For what purpose required.		Remarks.
		Quantity.	Cost.	Quantity.	Value.								Amount debited.			Paid in Cash.				Public use.	Private use.	
	Lbs. Yards. No. Gallons.		This column to show total estimated cost including freight and all other charges.		Rs.	A	P.	This column will only contain figures as column 2 shows the unit.	Rs.	A	P		Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A	P.				Articles indented for on account of local requirements payable for from local funds; the value of such articles must be deposited if for private persons.

Note.—When articles are paid for, the signature of both the Officer in charge of the Treasury and also of the Head Clerk of the Treasury, affirming the receipt of the cash, are to be affixed before the articles are issued.

Signature of party receiving the goods. *Signature of the party issuing the goods.* *Signature of Sanctioning Officer, i e., Superintendent.* *Signature of Indenting Officer*

No. 533, dated 8th May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that, on an inspection of the Stock Return for January last dated 1st March, there appears an immense accumulation of various articles to have been allowed, utterly disproportionate to the wants of this penal Settlement. I have selected a few out of many, and entered them in a list. I request you will cause the return to be filled in and sent to me without delay.

Return shewing certain particulars regarding the Stock Accounts of the Commissariat Department at Port Blair, for the month of January, 1867.

Names of Articles.	Unit of weight or number.	Quantity in store on 1st January, 1867.	Cost price excluding freight, packing, and commission.	From what port forwarded.	Through what agency procured.	By whom ordered.	For what purpose ordered.	For what period the supply in store on 1st January 1867 is supposed to last.	Remarks.
Brushes ...	No.	102							
Bunting, Blue ...	Yards.	194							
Canvas ...	"	3,365							
Serge ...	"	2,495							
Files ...	No.	986							
Gauges ...	"	50							
Ladles ...	"	197							
Chubb's Patent Locks..	"	11							
Nails of sorts ...	lbs.	40,000							
Oars ...	Feet.	5,279							
Cocoanut Oil ...	lbs.	22,042							
Linseed Oil ...	lbs.	7,692							
Mustard Oil ...	"	50,000							
Paint of sorts ...	"	20,000							
Brass & Copper Vessels	"	5,897							
Quicksilver ...	"	41							
Rope (Coir) ...	"	10,000							
Rope, English ...	"	10,000							
Rum ...	Gallons	17,000							
Scissors ...	Pairs	831							
Scales, Copper ...	Sets	50							
Settrinjees ...	No.	500							
Tape ..	Yards	6,158							
Tar ...	lbs.	8,397							
Thimbles ...	No.	330							
Turpentine ...	lbs.	2,530							

No. 109, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—Lieut. A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to forward a copy of the return received with your letter No. 533 of 8th May, with the columns duly filled in.

2. The articles will be all used up, with the exception of scissors, which I recommend should be sold.

Return showing certain particulars regarding the Stock Accounts of the Commissariat Department at Port Blair for the Month of January 1867.

Articles	Quantity in store on the 1st January, 1867	Cost price excluding freight, packing and commission.	From what Port ordered	Through what agency procured.	By whom ordered	For what purpose ordered.	For what period the supply in store on the 1st January 1867 is supposed to last.	Remarks.
		Rs. As. P.						
Brushes .. No.	102	0 7 6 each.	Calcutta ...	Naval Store-keeper.	Executive Commissariat Officer, Port Blair, present incumbent, and predecessors, on requisitions countersigned by the Superintendent.	Marine Department.	9 months.	The consumption of these articles is not regular; sometimes the demand is great, at others small. It is difficult therefore to state accurately how long they are likely to last. The scissors must have been obtained in former years with a mistaken idea as to the demand. I recommend that they be sold by auction in Burmah as they are spoiling by rust.
Bunting, Blue ... yards	194	0 9 0 per yard.	Ditto ...	Ditto.		Ditto.	7 "	
Canvas ... "	3,365	0 11 to 13 as per yd	Ditto ...	Ditto.		Ditto	13 "	
Serge ... "	2,495	1 0 0 "	Ditto ...	Ex Commst. Officer, Calcutta.		Convict clothing.	12 "	
Files ... No.	986	1 0 0 each.	Calcutta & Moulmein	Naval Store-keeper & old supply from Soobray Modelly.		Settlement, D. P. W.	12 "	
Gauges ... "	50	0 12 0 "	Calcutta ...	Naval Store-keeper, Calcutta		Do. do.	12 "	
Ladles ... "	197	0 1 0 "	Ditto ...	Ex. Commst. Officer, do.		Hospital, Setmt ships	6 "	
Chubb's Patent Lock "	11	9½ to Rs. 11-11 each.	Ditto ..	Ditto.		Sale & Secure Godown.	In use.	
Nails of sorts ... lbs.	40,000	6 0 0 to 13 p. cwt.	Calcutta & Moulmein	Naval Store-keeper & old supply from Soobray Modelly.		Settlement, D. P. W.	18 months.	
Oars ... feet	5,279	0 7 0 per foot.	Calcutta ...	Naval Store-keeper, Calcutta.		Marine Department.	10 "	
Cocoanut Oil ... lbs	22 042	25 2 0 per cwt.	Ditto ...	Ex Commst. Officer, do.		Sale, Church, &c.	10 "	
Linseed Oil ... "	7,692	2 0 0 per gal.	Ditto ...	Naval Store-keeper, do.		Marine Department.	13 "	
Mustard Oil ... "	50,000	12 13 0 per cwt.	Ditto ...	Ex Commst. Officer, do.		Convict's Barracks. &c.	6½ "	
Paint of sorts ... "	20,000	9 to 16 "	Ditto ...	Naval Store-keeper, do.		Marine Department	20 "	
Brass & Copper Pots "	5,897	8 and 12 as. per lb.	Ditto ..	Ex. Commst. Officer, do.		Convicts, sale and in use in Commissariat troops, &c.	11 " and in use.	
Quicksilver ... "	41	4 0 0 per cwt.	Ditto ...	Naval Store-keeper, do.		Marine Department.	2 years.	
Rope, Coir ... "	10,000	22 8 0 "	Ditto ...	Ditto, do.		Ditto.	8 months.	
Ditto, English ... "	10,000	28 0 0 "	Ditto ...	Ditto, do.		Ditto	8 "	
Rum ... galls.	17,000	2 0 0 per gal.	Ditto ..	Ex. Commst. Officer, do.		Troops, sale and Convicts.	11 "	
Scissors ... pairs	831	6 to 10 annas each.	Calcutta & Molumein	Do. & purchased in Moulmein		Settlement.	9 years.	
Scales, Copper .. set	50	9 0 0 each.	Calcutta ...	Ex. Commst. Office, Calcutta.		Troops and in use in Commissariat.	For use and issue.	
Settringees ... No.	500	1 12 9 "	Ditto ...	Ditto, do.		Hospitals.	6 months.	
Tape ... yards	6,158	0 1 0 per yard.	Ditto ...	Ditto, do.		Ditto.	12 "	
Tar ... lbs.	8,397	6 0 0 per barrel of 222½ lbs.	Ditto ...	Naval Store-keeper, do.		Marine Settlement, D. W. P.	2 "	
Thimbles ... No.	330	0 3 0 each.	Ditto ...	Ditto, do.		Marine.	3 years.	
Turpentine ... lbs.	2,530	3 6 0 per gal.	Ditto ...	Ditto, do.		Ditto.	12 months.	

(Signed) A. F. LAUGHTON, Lieut.,
Sub-Assistant Commissary General

No. 432, dated 30th April, 1867.

Memo.—from MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to enquire if the "Quang Tung" can tow the "Zurich" to Rangoon; if not, we must wait for the "Arracan," and the "Quang Tung, must remain for me. I shall require one cabin for Dr. Kelly, one for myself, and accommodation for two clerks.

Dated 30th April, 1867.

*From—*LIEUT. F. DUNCAN, R. N. R., *Commander, H. M.'s Steamer "Kwang Tung,"*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

In reply to your letter No, 22, forwarding a letter from Major Davies, I have the honor to inform you that, if the weather holds fine, there will be no difficulty in towing the "Zurich" to Rangoon, but the vessel should have her sails bent in case of having to cast off.

There is no passenger accommodation on board the "Kwang Tung"; there are two spare cabins in the gun-room, which are at your disposal, and no accommodation but deck for the clerks.

No. 67, dated 30th April 1867.

*Memo. by—*LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent Port Blair.*

Copy forwarded to Major H. N. Davies for information, with reference to his letter marked 433, of this day's date.

No. 70, dated 1st May, 1867.

*Memo. from—*LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

No. 146 of the 1st May.

Copies of correspondence as per margin forwarded to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, for information.

No. 145, dated 1st May, 1867.

*From—*LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Commander of Ship "Zurich."

Having been given to understand that you are ready for sea, and as H. M.'s Steamer "Quang Tung" is about to proceed to British Burmah, I consider that this will be a good opportunity (so as not to lose time in your reloading as per charter with Government with stores for this Settlement) to despatch the vessel under your command in tow of that vessel to the port of Moulmein, there to load accordingly.

2. On reaching Moulmein, I request you will be good enough to telegraph your arrival there to the Master Attendant, Rangoon, for the orders of the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah. A copy of the sailing orders issued to the "Kwang Tung" will be separately sent to you.

No. 146, dated 1st May, 1867.

*From—*LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Commander H. M.'s Steamer "Quang Tung."

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and in reply to request that, as the weather still holds fine, you will proceed to Moulmein, leaving this not later than 2 P. M. to-morrow, towing to that port the ship "Zurich," which vessel is at present chartered by Government for the conveyance of stores from that place to Port Blair, and is now ready for sea to proceed thither on that duty.

2. The Captain of the "Zurich" will, as requested by you, have the vessel's sails bent, in case of having to cast off. Sailing orders will be separately sent to you.

No. 75, dated 2nd May, 1867.

*From—*LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to forward the enclosed copy of a letter to my address from Lieutenant Duncan, Commanding the Steamer "Kwang Tung," bringing to notice that, because two of his officers are sick and on shore on medical certificate, he has only one officer for duty.

2. Lieut. Duncan in this emergency applies for the services of one out of the four officers available for duty on the Steamer "Arracan." This I cannot order; but under the circumstances, I doubt not, from the powers you hold from the Chief Commissioner, that you could direct the services of an officer to be made available for the trip, should you deem such a step advisable.

Dated 2nd May, 1867.

From—LIEUT. F. DUNCAN, R. N. R., *Commanding H. M's Steamer "Kwang Tung,"*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to bring to your notice, that my second officer is on shore on medica certificate, and my gunner unwell and unfit for duty, leaving me only one officer to carry on the duties of the vessel, and I am myself ill.

As I am about to proceed to sea with a ship in tow, I should feel obliged if you would instruct Captain Barrow of the "Arracan" to allow me the services of his gunner for the trip. He has got three officers and a gunner on board.

Dated 2nd May, 1867.

From—LIEUT. F. DUNCAN, R. N., R, *Commanding H. M's Steamer "Kwang Tung,"*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair

In reply to your Office Memo. forwarding a letter from Major Davies, I have the honor to inform you that, owing to my only having one officer on board, and not being well enough to keep a watch myself, I decline going to sea in the vessel under my command, without the assistance applied for in my letter of this day's date, or until such time as my gunner or 2nd officer is fit for duty.

No. 76, dated 5th May, 1867.

Memo. by—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

Copy forwarded to Major H N. Davies, Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, with a request that he will be good enough to furnish the undersigned with any instructions he has to give on the subject.

No. 453, dated 2nd May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H N DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to acknowledge receipt of your Memo. No. 76, giving cover to a copy of a letter from the Commander of the "Kwang Tung," stating his inability to proceed to sea without assistance, on account of having only one officer on board, and himself being unable to keep a watch.

2 I desire to know if Lieutenant Duncan declines to proceed to sea; and if Captain Barrow considers, in view of having to tow a crippled vessel like the "Diana," he cannot spare an officer from the "Arracan," and *secondly* if Lieut. Duncan is unable to perform those duties which the exigencies of the service require. I request a medical certificate may be forwarded to that effect.

Dated 1st May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Commander, H. M.'s Steamer "Kwang Tung."

Having received on board the mails and passengers having "Passes," it is my direction that you put to sea (should nothing intervene) with the vessel under your command to-morrow, not later than 3 P. M, taking in tow the chartered ship "Zurich," and make the best of your way to Moulmein.

2. On reaching that port, you will be good enough to telegraph your arrival as having the "Zurich" in tow, to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, for his orders.

Dated 1st May, 1867.

Memo. by—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

Copy forwarded to the Commander of the ship "Zurich" for information, with the intimation that the attention of the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, has been drawn to the conditions of the agreement as regards the "Zurich" being towed to Rangoon, if they required to fill up cargo.

No. 71, dated 2nd May, 1867

Memo. by—LIEUT.-COLONEL B FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair*

Copies forwarded to the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, for information.

No. 106, dated 4th May, 1867.

Memo. from—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned, in compliance with the demi-official request from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, has the honor to forward the undermentioned documents :—

1. Sailing orders from the Chief Commissioner's office regarding the movements of the ship "Zurich."

2. & 3 You apply for my letter to Captain Duncan regarding the proposed trip of the Steamer "Kwang Tung" for the Nicobars, and his reply. It would probably be in your recollection that the undersigned requested Lieutenant Duncan to wait upon him personally for the purpose of discussing the proposed trip of the "Kwang Tung" to the Nicobars, but that Lieutenant Duncan, having written to the undersigned that he was too unwell to come on shore, the undersigned consequently called upon Lieutenant Duncan on board, and in a conversation on the matter, was informed that he (Lieutenant Duncan) therefore declined to take the responsibility of proceeding on the proposed trip, but was ready to proceed, if the undersigned was prepared to take upon himself the responsibility of sending the steamer to the Nicobars in such condition.

4. Copy of letter No. 96 of the 26th April, 1867, from the Superintendent of Port Blair, to Lieutenant Duncan, directing him to proceed to Port Mouat for the purpose of towing the hulk "Erin go-bragh" to Port Blair.

5. Lieutenant Duncan's reply dated the 27th April, 1867.

6. The Superintendent's direction, nevertheless, to proceed to Port Mouat.

7. Copy of Superintendent's letter No. 122 of the 30th April, 1867, to know if the "Kwang Tung" could tow the "Zurich."

8 Lieutenant Duncan's reply thereto, dated 2nd May, 1867.

9. Copy of a letter from Lieutenant Duncan declining to furnish a medical certificate.

Note.—With regard to this letter, the undersigned has here to mention that he addressed a note to Lieutenant Duncan, copy attached, strongly urging on him the propriety of cancelling the above letter, in reply to which Lieutenant Duncan addressed a note to the undersigned declining to do so.

10. Lieutenant Duncan's acceptance of the services of Mr. McPherson, 4th officer of the steamer "Arracan," if his Commander considered him competent to keep a watch. Captain Barrow sent Mr. McPherson on board, and the "Kwang Tung" left in the afternoon of the 3rd instant for Moulmein, having the ship "Zurich" in tow.

No. 298 A, dated 3rd April, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Master Attendant, Rangoon.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will instruct the Commander of the "Arracan" to take the chartered ship "Zurich" in tow, and proceed with all despatch to Moulmein. On the "Zurich" will be embarked two elephants, and as much rice as will complete her cargo. On board the "Arracan" will be embarked a Company of 12th Regiment Native infantry, and such rice as there is room for. The two vessels having been filled up, the "Arracan" will tow the "Zurich" to Port Blair, there the troops will be disembarked from the "Arracan," and when the relieved troops are embarked, the "Arracan" will come back to Moulmein, and after the troops have been landed, she will take in such cargo as may be ready and can be quickly shipped and returned directly to Port Blair, from which port she will tow the "Zurich" to Rangoon. Major Davies and Doctor Kelly will proceed in the mail steamer, and join the "Arracan" at Moulmein, and proceed in her on duty to Port Blair. The Superintendent of Port Blair will be instructed to unload the "Zurich" with all despatch.

No. 299 A, dated 3rd April, 1867.

Memo. by—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

Copy of letter No. 298 A of this date, relative to the sailing orders of the Steamer "Arracan" and ship "Zurich," is forwarded to the Superintendent of Port Blair for information and guidance, whose attention is called to the concluding para.

No. 96, dated 26th April, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Commander H. M.'s Steamer "Kwang Tung."

I have the honor to request that you will hold the vessel under your command in readiness to proceed to Port Mouat on Monday next, the 29th instant, for the purpose of towing the hulk "Erin-go-bragh," at present there anchored, back to this port.

2. As the hulk has no crew allowed her, I shall feel obliged by your affording such assistance as may be necessary with your crew in getting up anchors, passing hawsers, &c.

3. Should you require any of the marine service men to assist, I request you will be so good as to state the number you would wish for.

Dated 27th April, 1867.

From—Lieut. F. Duncan, R. N. R., *Commander, H. M.'s Steamer "Kwang Tung,"*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 96, of the 26th instant, requiring that I may be in readiness to proceed to Port Mouat on Monday next to tow the "Erin-go-bragh" to this port.

In reply, I beg to call your attention to my letters Nos. 74, of the 29th March, and 77 of the 8th instant, and to inform you that I will be in readiness to proceed to Port Mouat on Monday, for the purpose required, but will not hold myself responsible for anything that may occur owing to the state of the vessel's boilers and the unsettled state of the weather.

With reference to para. 2, I have the honor to request that a full crew may be sent to the "Erin-go-bragh," I should say 20 men of the Brigade would be sufficient. I would be glad to render any assistance in my power, but owing to nearly half of my men being ill, I cannot spare a man out of the ship.

No. 106, dated 27th April, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Commander H. M.'s Steamer "Kwang Tung."

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day's date, informing me that you are in readiness to proceed to Port Mouat on Monday next for the purpose required, but will not hold yourself responsible for anything that may occur owing to the unsafe state of the boilers of the vessel, and the unsettled state of the weather.

2. I have to inform you that my orders, with regard to the removal to this port of the hulk "Erin-go-bragh," are such as must be carried out; the hulk is urgently required in Port Blair for special and important duty, and very great loss will occur to Government if she be not here without delay.

3. I apprehend, seeing how well the "Kwang Tung" recently steamed with two boilers all around the Andaman Islands, that you will have no difficulty of steaming by the same means to Port Mouat, and I therefore request you will proceed thither as directed, where I trust, judging from its present state, that you will find the weather such as will admit at once of your towing the hulk round here; but should you find the weather has become so unsettled when you get to that port as to render it unsafe to proceed to sea or return, you will be good enough to remain there until the weather clears, or till such time as you may, by your nautical experience, consider a favorable opportunity offers for carrying out the duty on which I have directed you to proceed. In the event of your being detained at Port Mouat by unsettled weather, I must request that you will furnish me twice daily with barometrical and other reports, and such other full information as to the state of such bad weather as detains or prevents your carrying out your duty, for transmission to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, in order that he may be satisfied that there is no undue delay in the carrying out of his orders. These reports I request you will be good enough to hand over to Mr. J. N. Homfray, Assistant to the Superintendent in charge "Port Mouat," who has received my orders to forward each one on receipt by special messages to Port Blair.

4. I have detailed all the men of the Settlement marine service available for duty (14 in number) to proceed to Port Mouat to assist in getting round the "Erin-go-bragh." The marine service men will be ready on Monday morning for embarkation on board the "Kwang-Tung," at such hour as you may be prepared to receive them on board. They will take their own provisions &c., with them.

5. I have also directed Mr. Homfray to render all the assistance he can in aid of the completion of the duty required.

No. 122, dated 30th April, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Commander H. M.'s Steamer "Kwang Tung."

I have the honor to forward enclosed copy of a letter to my address No. 431 of the 30th instant, from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, and with reference thereto, request you will afford me the information he requires as soon as possible.

No. 431, dated 30th April, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to enquire if the "Kwang Tung" can tow the "Zurich" to Rangoon; if not we must wait for the "Arracan," and the "Kwang Tung," must remain here for me. I shall require one cabin for Dr. Kelly, one for myself, and accommodation for two clerks.

Dated 2nd May, 1867.

From—LIEUT. F. DUNCAN, R. N. R., *Commander H. M.'s Steamer "Kwang Tung,"*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

In reply to your Office Memo. forwarding a letter from Major Davies, I have the honor to inform you that, owing to my having only one officer on board, and not being well enough to keep a watch myself, I decline going to sea in the vessel under my command without the assistance applied for in my letter of this day's date, or until such time as my gunner or 2nd officer is fit for duty.

From—LIEUT. F. DUNCAN, R. N. R., *Commander H. M.'s Steamer "Kwang Tung,"*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

In reply to your Memorandum No. 156, forwarding a letter from Major Davies, I have the honor to inform you that I decline forwarding any medical certificate, and further that I am alone responsible to the Government of India for the safety of the vessel entrusted to my command, and I decline under any circumstances, leaving this port with only one officer on board.

2. I would further beg to state that I was placed under your orders, as far as the destination of the vessel was concerned, by the Chief Commissioner of British Burmah, and until such orders are countermanded, I decline receiving any communication from Major Davies, as he seems to have exceeded his authority in calling on me for a medical certificate.

Dated 3rd May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Commander H. M.'s Steamer "Kwang Tung."

It strikes me that, in writing your last official letter to me declining to furnish a medical certificate as required by Major Davies, that you lost sight of the fact that he is deputed here by the Chief Commissioner to represent him, and seeing that I am under the Chief Commissioner, why, if you declare yourself as under my orders here, you must be *à priori* under the Chief Commissioner and then under me. I would therefore advise you not to decline the medical certificate, or else to state you are fit for duty, as you prefer; for in your present attitude you ignore the Chief Commissioner's representative, who is here with such a position under Colonel Fytche's own signature. The Doctors are all three away at Port Mouat; but if you will write me a note and say that you will send a certificate, or feel better and purpose proceeding at such a time, it will be all I now need to satisfy Major Davies; and will save, I am sure, what will otherwise be most unpleasant consequences, which, by my now writing, as you must see, I am desirous of averting.

Dated 3rd May, 1867.

From—LIEUT. F. DUNCAN, R. N. R, *Commander H. M.'s Steamer "Kwang Tung,"*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

In reply to your letter No. 157, I have the honor to inform you that I will accept of Mr. McPherson's services. Captain Barrow considers him competent to keep a watch.

No. 377, dated 25th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request you will have the goodness to report the several stations which it is the duty of the Assistant Surgeon to visit; how often he ought to inspect each, and the number of times he actually inspected each during the past 12 months, giving the dates of each inspection.

When at Port Mouat a few days ago the undersigned saw a prisoner of emaciated appearance, who had but one toe, while the wound was still in a raw state, who had been discharged from Hospital. Please state on whose authority this piece of inhumanity was sanctioned.

No. 50, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

With reference to Secretary to Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. No. 377, dated 25th instant, the undersigned has the honor to forward copy of letter as per margin, which will afford the information therein called for.

*No. 75, dated 27th April, from Dr. A. Gamack, to Dr. A. J. Cowie.

No. 75, dated 27th April, 1867.

From—SURGEON A. L. GAMACK, M. D., *Civil Assistant Surgeon, Port Blair,*

To—Senior Surgeon, Port Blair.

In reply to your Memo. No. 824, forwarding copy of Memo. No. 377 from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, I have the honor to report for his information, that the sick from "Perseverance Point, "Command Point," "Hope Town, "Mount Harriet," "Haddo," "Chatham," and "Navy Bay," are under my care, and are all at present treated in the hospital at "Chatham Islands." At the other stations mentioned, there are "receiving hospitals," where only trivial cases are treated by native dressers, who have instructions not to detain any cases longer than three days, and if in that time the man is not able to return to duty, to send him to the hospital at Chatham; all but trivial cases to be at once dispatched to that hospital. All these stations are visited periodically, at no fixed intervals, and no record is kept of particular visits, but one or other of them is usually visited almost every evening. Viper Island is in charge of an apothecary, and also comes under my supervision. He sends me a daily report of occurrences in hospital, and I usually visit the Island once or twice in a week or oftener, when there are any urgent cases requiring special attention.

In regard to the 2nd para. of Major Davies' Memo., I have the honor to reply that an apothecary is in medical charge of "Port Mouat," and that he sends all reports and returns direct to the Senior Medical Officer, the station being too far from Chatham Island, and would occupy too much time to come under my regular tour of inspection. If the name and number of the convict seen by Major Davies had been given, it is probable that the apothecary at Port Mouat could have given some explanation concerning him.

No. 837.

Memo.—by DR. A. J. COWIE, *Senior Medical Officer, Port Blair.*

Forwarded to Colonel Ford for his information, with reference to letter No. 48 of the 25th instant.

No. 442, dated 1st May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to inquire whether, from your Memo. No 50, dated 29th ultimo, and its enclosures, he is to understand that Assistant Surgeon Gamack never visited the Port Mouat station during 1866. If he did, please state how many times he went there, and record the date.

No. 97, dated 4th May, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the Chief Commissioner's Memorandum No. 442 of the 1st instant, enquiring whether from this Office Memo. No. 50, dated 29th ultimo, and its enclosures, it is to be understood that Assistant Surgeon Gamack never visited the Port Mouat station during 1866. In reply, the undersigned begs to forward the enclosed copy of the Civil Assistant Surgeon's Memo. No. 81 of 4th instant, to the address of Senior Medical Officer, Port Blair, who therein mentions the visits paid by both medical officers of the Settlement during 1866. From no dates having been given, which were applied for, it is supposed that no record of the dates of the visits were preserved.

No. 81, dated 4th May, 1867.

Memo. from—DR. A. GAMACK, M. D., *Civil Assistant Surgeon, Port Blair,*

To—Senior Medical Officer, Port Blair.

Port Mouat was visited occasionally during the year 1866 by both the Senior Medical Officer and Dr. Gamack; by the latter in May, June, July, August, October, and November.

No. 391, dated 26th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to inquire what are the duties of the Assistant Superintendent. Please specify the daily routine allotted to this Officer.

No. 58, dated, 27th April, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In acknowledging the receipt of the Chief Commissioner's Office Memo. marked No. 391, of yesterday's date, enquiring what are the duties of the Assistant Superintendent, I

have the honor to enclose a copy of the first orders to that gentleman, a copy of the Resolution of the Government of India, in the Home Department, dated the 26th September, 1861, and an extract from a Note on Port Blair by Major General the Hon'ble Sir Robert Napier, K. C. B., in which he lays down what he considers should be the duty of the Assistant Superintendent, in the spirit of which the Assistant Superintendent has since his arrival been employed by me.

2. With reference to your request, I proceed to specify the daily routine allotted to that Officer. I beg to report that he is employed in the morning and evening on out-door duties all over the Settlement,—in seeing that my orders are carried out in particular; and, generally, to the maintenance of order and discipline, conservancy, cultivation, Settlement manufactures, &c, and in enquiring into petty cases and complaints, misdemeanor, and other such matters that he can adjudicate on the spot. He has likewise to inspect books of divisions and occasional parades, see punishments inflicted, and see to the maintenance of all barrack interior economy.

3. These duties are far more than the Assistant Superintendent can manage singly, and I therefore share them with him. I also take Ross Island duties in the above respect to myself.

4. During the day the Assistant Superintendent sits in the Magistrate's Court for the trial of all offences brought forward by free police and others, and the dispatch of such further business as pertains to such Court and office. These duties now occupy the Assistant Superintendent daily until about 4 o'clock P. M.

No. 710, dated 22nd August, 1865.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Assistant Superintendent, Port Blair.

From Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, to Captain the Honorable James H. Fraser, late 4th European Regiment, No. 177, dated Simla, the 17th July, 1865.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 11th instant, reporting your arrival at this Settlement on appointment as per enclosure, received with your communication as per margin, as Assistant Superintendent of Port Blair.

2. I take this opportunity of enclosing for your information and guidance copy of Resolution of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, dated Fort William, Home Department, the 26th of September 1861, and to request that, pending the instructions of Government, you will assume charge of the office of Deputy Superintendent of this Settlement, exercising the judicial power and authority wherewith the Deputy Superintendent is vested, as therein laid down.

3. Further, I have the honor to inform you that your appointment to the position of Assistant Superintendent of Port Blair, and the power that you exercise, as above referred to, have been notified to all the officers on this Settlement, who, as occasion may require, will refer to you for such magisterial or other aid, as they, in support of their authority or position, may need in their respective departments.

4. I request that you will hold your Court sittings in the Superintendent's Court as a rule on Mondays and Thursdays,* but of course oftener, if necessary, and that on other days of the week you will be good enough to give your attention to such Settlement matters either on Ross or other stations, and to see that the views and orders of the Superintendent are carried out, as I, in communication with you, from time to time may request.

* He now sits daily.

Dated 26th September, 1861.

RESOLUTION—By the Government of India, Home Department.

Read Act XXVII of 1861, entitled an Act to regulate the administration of Port Blair and other Settlements in the Andaman Island.

Under the authority vested in the Governor General in Council by Sections 3 and 4 of the abovementioned Act, His Excellency in Council is pleased to pass the following Regulation :—

The administration of civil and criminal justice within the Settlement of Port Blair shall be vested in the Superintendent of the Settlement, and in the Deputy Superintendent, to the extent and subject to the directions following :—

The Superintendent shall be vested with, and may and shall exercise, full judicial power and authority in all cases whatsoever, civil and criminal, both for the purpose of a tribunal of first instance, and of reference and appeal, subject to such instructions as the Governor General in Council may from time to time issue, and subject as aforesaid, the judgments and sentences of the Superintendent in all cases, civil and criminal, shall be final and conclusive, save that no sentence of death passed by him shall be carried into execution, until it be confirmed by the Governor General in Council. But it shall be lawful for the Superintendent, subject as aforesaid, if he shall think the ends of justice require it, to review any judgment or sentence passed by him, or to submit the same to be reviewed by the Governor General in Council.

The Deputy Superintendent may and shall exercise in criminal matters the powers of Magistrate

In civil cases he may and shall exercise the powers of a Moonsiff and Sudder Ameen.

In criminal cases an appeal shall lie from the Deputy Superintendent to the Superintendent in all cases in which a sentence of imprisonment shall be passed exceeding three months, or in which a fine shall be imposed exceeding one hundred rupees.

In civil cases an appeal shall lie from the Deputy Superintendent to the Superintendent in all suits in which the amount sought to be recovered shall exceed one hundred rupees.

Extract from Note on Port Blair by the Hon'ble MAJOR GENERAL SIR ROBERT NAPIER, K. C. B.

After carefully reviewing the circumstances of the Settlement, it appears that the Superintendent has for one person, far too onerous a charge, requiring a variety of knowledge and the execution of duties in a widely scattered Settlement in which inter-communication is often difficult, or interrupted by bad weather. It does not appear that ex-officio Assistants, charged with other substantial duties, would afford the necessary assistance.

Objection has been made to a Deputy Superintendent, lest the office should be likely to engender an idea of separate responsibility, and less implicit subordination than is necessary in so detached a situation. It is possible such might be the case, and to avoid it, a competent and efficient Assistant should be appointed;—an experienced subaltern Officer, or young Captain, with sufficient knowledge of the language and Native character, and general practical knowledge to enable him to afford active and substantial assistance to the Superintendent, by constantly visiting every part of the Settlement, and seeing that the views and orders of the Superintendent are carried out, without aspiring to any independent action, and without being of an age to render such active and subordinate duties unsuited to him Such an officer no doubt could easily be found amongst the unemployed local officers, or in the Department of Public Works, who would gladly accept the appointment on a staff allowance of Rs. 300 a month. At present the Superintendent has no competent person to give him this assistance, the ex-officio officers often having other duties which claim precedence and responsibilities to other authorities which must impair their complete subordination to the Superintendent.

No. 566, dated 13th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that, during my visits to the several stations in company with the Assistant Superintendent, I have never observed him make inquiries as to the progress of any particular work, either ordered by yourself or by him. From this and from other observations I have made, it would appear that, as regards work at each station, excepting Ross, (in which I understand you help each other) the overseers are left pretty well to their own devices.

2. The visitations of the medical officers to the different out-stations was, as far as I have been able after much inquiry to learn, were far fewer than (considering the sickness which prevailed at many of them) they should have been; this probably arose, as far as Dr Morton was concerned, from the state of his health, but the same excuse is not applicable to Assistant Surgeon Gamack.

3 Please state if you have any objections to include the following form in your monthly return submitted to the Chief Commissioner's Office. If none, then please commence with the 1st.

4 Two officers should not ordinarily visit the same station on the same date, and the visit should be made without warning

Return showing the stations visited by the several Officers of the Settlement during the Month of May 1867.

	Name of stations alphabetically arranged.	Number of Prisoners at each Station.			Number of dates for the months.	Names of Stations visited and by whom visited.						Remarks.
		Out of Hospital.	In Hospital.			Aberdeen.	Haddo.					
			Sick.			By whom visited.						
					1							
					2							
					3							
					4							
					5							
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No. 159, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 566 of the 13th instant, in which you remark that you have not observed the Assistant Superintendent make enquiries as to the progress of particular works when in company with you he has visited out-stations. You also note that it appears from other observations that you have made that overseers at out-stations are left pretty well to their own devices.

2. Both in my Assistant's and in my own defence, I must beg to be permitted to say that you have formed an erroneous opinion in this matter; for, of what use would our constant visits to out-stations be were it not personally to observe the progress of works, and to see that the overseers are doing their duty? On the occasions you refer to, Captain Fraser was in attendance on yourself.

3. Your para. 2 I have communicated a copy of to the Senior Medical Officer.

4. With regard to para. 3 of your letter, I have no objection to add the form that you supply to my monthly reports.

5. I have forwarded a copy of your letter to the Senior Medical Officer, and have asked him to furnish me from his department also with the information that you desire.

No. 348, dated 23rd April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request you will favor him with a return showing the number of rustawallas or self-supporters and other particulars in the annexed form :—

Return shewing the particulars regarding each Self-supporter at present in the several Settlements of Port Blair, on the 23rd April, 1867.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
					ANY CHILDREN.							
Name of Self-supporter.	Place of birth.	Caste.	Married.	Single.	Boys.	Girls.	Enquiries made of prisoners.	Present employment.	Crime for which sentenced.	Number of years sentenced.	Number of years or months he underwent sentence at Port Blair before he became self-supporter.	Where located at present.

No. 520, dated 7th May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to invite attention to Office Memo. No. 348 of the 23rd ultimo, calling for a return of the number of rustawallas or self-supporters.

No. 157, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair.*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

With reference to your Memo. No. 348 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honor to forward herewith the return shewing particulars regarding each self-supporter in the Settlement of Port Blair.

No. 424, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to enquire whether there is any compulsory nerrick at which self-supporters have to retail stores ; also their other produce, such as milk, eggs, vegetables, &c.

No. 64, dated 30th April, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter No. 424, of yesterday's date, enquiring whether there is any compulsory nerrick at which self-supporters have to retail stores, as also other produce, such as milk, eggs, vegetables, &c., I have the honor to inform you, that there exists no such nerrick for the self-supporters retailing stores. The following are the nerrick rates at which Settlement produce as under is sold :—

Country Vegetables	From 1 to 2 annas a seer according to quality.	
Small Fish (sardines)	@	24 lbs. per Rupee.
Large Fish	„	12 „ „
Ducks	„	1-8 each.
Fowls	„	1 each.
Chickens	„	10 and 6 annas each.
Eggs...	„	9 pie each.
Milk...	„	2 annas 6 pie per bottle.
Salt	„	32 seers per Rupee.
Firewood	„	12 maunds per Rupee.

No. 376, dated 24th April, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, in continuation of my letter No. 350, dated 23rd instant, to call your particular attention to the subject of "copper tokens" as used in this Settlement.

2. Their admission into the Settlement would have proved undoubtedly an admirable arrangement had the system been carried out in its integrity, that is, if no money of any other description had been allowed to become current in the Settlement. But as for years past the official, military, marine and free artificers, &c., have been receiving their pay in silver coin of the realm, convicts have found no difficulty in obtaining silver in exchange for tokens, and so large an amount of silver coin has now been accumulated in the Settlement that the value of the system has ceased to have effect. The difficulty would now be to clear out the silver coin.

3. The disbursement of a money allowance in tokens and fractions of Rupees has, it is asserted, been the cause of a great deal of the sickness and afforded the means of effecting escape from Port Blair;—sickness in consequence of convicts of limited terms of transportation starving themselves, buying inferior food, and hoarding their savings to have a sum of money to take back with them to their homes, and in the case of long-term convicts to enable them to become self-supporters; and as regards escapes, because prisoners transported for life have, in the hopes of some time or other, being able to make their escape. That there is an inherent love of hoarding in the native of India, even without an especial object beyond accumulating money, is undeniable, and when it is known how difficult it is to prevent the sepoy, either a native of Bengal or Madras, serving in British Burmah, from selling the good ration served out to him from the Commissariat and buying inferior stuff, much more improbable would it be. that the convict, who has money wherewith to purchase his daily food, would expend his full subsistence allowance; and this is just why we see a vast number among the prisoners here being haggard and emaciated in appearance for want of proper food.

4. I am decidedly of opinion that it will not, and as bribery would be as rampant, with copper tokens as with silver coins, and the difficulty is enhanced manyfold by the large amount of silver coin that is already in the Settlement. Putting aside for the present the question of how the circulation of money might be lessened, by instituting the messing system, which will be treated of in another despatch under another phase, I now suggest your consideration of the question as to whether it be most advisable—

1*st.*—To restrict the currency here to copper. Tokens and pice as the fractional parts of a rupee; or 2*nd*, to do away with the tokens and have the rupee and its fractions.

5. There seems to be no restriction whatever to the amount of money which a convict, in some instances, may possess, and I am given to understand that convicts receive large sums at times from their friends, and that not only is the rupee current in the Settlement, but that Bank notes are also recognized as legal tenders, and the custom of convicts accumulating by receiving money is encouraged by the system which allows of so many indulgences to those who possess this powerful engine.

1*st.*—It leads directly to bribery, and the honest, industrious convict has no chance against his dishonest but richer companions; thus justice is defeated at the outset, and the law fails in its impartial application.

2*nd.*—Money is the only means whereby a convict can become a self-supporter.

3*rd.*—The possession of money, or its equivalent, fine clothes, appear to be the criterion by which, in a great measure, orderlies and parawallahs are manufactured; in short, the old adage of money being the root of all evil has no exception here. This being admitted, the question comes, whether prohibiting the currency of silver, and allowing only that of the copper tokens, will now check the evil.

6. The reason for and against each proposition and your conclusion, you will be good enough to give. One difficulty should be borne in mind, and that is, whether European soldiers could be compelled to receive tokens as pay.

No. 85, dated 3rd May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter marked 376 of 24th instant, written in continuation of your letter No. 350, dated 23rd instant, calling my attention to the subject of copper tokens as used in the Settlement, and you request my consideration of the question as to whether it be more advisable—

1*st.*—To restrict the currency here to copper tokens and pice as its fractional parts or,

2*nd.*—To do away with the token, and have the rupee and its fractions.

2. In reply I beg to state—*First*, I am decidedly of opinion that it would be by far the most advisable arrangement to restrict the currency in this Settlement to copper tokens. My

reasons for these suggestions were conveyed to you in a memo. which I addressed to you, No. 29, of 25th ultimo, from which I extract as under.

3. For the interest of Government, and more particularly of this Penal Statement, it is proposed that there be no silver rupees admitted, and that from a given date the treasury will refuse to receive such coin as a legal tender, except on the public service, and then only at the discretion of the Treasurer, subject to approval of the Superintendent of the Settlement. To carry out this proposition, as far as concerns free men in the employ of Government, it is presumed a legislative enactment will be necessary. The above proposition has for some time past been under the consideration of the Superintendent of Port Blair as a *special* means of compelling convicts, who are always paid in copper tokens as a *subsistence* allowance, to turn that allowance to its legitimate purpose, for the Superintendent, notwithstanding his continued checks, is still under the apprehension that money is not only saved and hoarded up by term convicts, but is remitted away by them, through the agency of free natives; some of them must have a fellow feeling for their countrymen, and others who, for purposes of gain, enter into a compact to thwart the designs of Government. Under these circumstances, it is considered advisable that no other coin, but the Andaman token, be recognised in this Penal Settlement. This step will make convicts feel, that their object to save money is frustrated, and free men will be precluded from entering into monetary transactions with them. Another benefit will also arise, for the convicts having no other means of disposing of their money will spend it on their food, and thus improvement in their phisique and health will be effected. Orders can be sent aboard any ship entering the harbour prohibiting the tender of silver in the bazar, and its being taken by any person being also prohibited, such coin ought by these means to be kept out of the Settlement. Simultaneously with the introduction of the use of the copper tokens only as a legal tender, it is suggested that a saving bank be established in connection with the treasury.

4. It is by no means necessary, in my opinion, that a convict should receive the whole of his subsistence allowance in cash; it would not be a difficult arrangement to furnish him monthly with a subsistence ticket valued say for a 1st and 2nd class man at 2 annas, and for a 3rd class man at 1 anna and 9 pie per diem. On presenting this ticket, the bunneah and butcher, &c., who supplies the Division to which the convict belongs, should supply him say every third day with food in certain proportions of rice, meat, condiments, &c., to be determined on a diet scale, to that value; the Toledar or other responsible person of the prisoner's division or section to keep a roll and record therein (tallied) by the suppliers the due delivery and receipt of such substance. At the end of the month, these tickets should be collected by the division overseer, and given to the bunneah and butcher; and their delivery of such tickets to the Commissariat would be a sufficient voucher for a *paper* not *cash* adjustment of the advances of food supplies that he has received. Under such an arrangement the convict would not be cheated; he would very soon make a complaint of any short issues of the food due to him on his subsistence ticket. This arrangement would leave a fraction of the convict's subsistence allowance to be paid to him in cash, that is to say, to the 1st class men 1 anna, to the 2nd half an anna, and to the 3rd, 3 pie per day each, which the convict would spend upon himself as he liked, either in a little fish, vegetables, tobacco &c. The means at the convict's disposal of saving for hoarding and bribes would thus be reduced to a minimum. I do not think that it would be *possible entirely* to prevent either habit. To deprive the convict of all money subsistence whatsoever would probably result in a large amount of theft, and a variety of nefarious practices, to raise money, the investigation of which would be endless. Regarding the bribery, as I remarked to you in para. 8 of my letter No. 32 of 26th April last, though no doubt bribery prevails amongst the subordinate convict grades, I believe it to be used more to evade labour and to curryfavor with those of their own class set over them, than to obtain the indulgence of being permitted to become self-supporters. Selections for this class are made by myself or Assistant for gangsmen, orderlies and parrahwallahs (these last are principally old men), and are based upon our personal observations as to the intelligence and general fitness of such individuals for such posts.

5. You are of opinion that so much silver coin is now accumulated in this Settlement that the value of the system of token has ceased, and the difficulty would now be to clear out the silver coin. In my own opinion I do not think it is too late to mend this matter. It will doubtless take time to effect amendment, but I think it can be done, for the very system that I, in its combined form, propose, would, in course of time, *extract* the silver coin that is in existence in this Settlement, and the obtainable means for hoarding and bribery would gradually cease to exist, and thus the evils of hoarding and bribery would to a great extent die out.

6. I would remark, with reference to the accumulation of silver coin, that it is not in my opinion nearly so much as is supposed, with regard to which I may mention that it is a fact that, with only one or two exceptions, not a single Chinaman employed in the P. W. Department has taken a draft from the treasury. Large payments are made to them monthly in silver. The troops, both Native and European, are moreover paid in that coin, and a very small proportion is returned to the treasury; the consequence is that every relief takes away the silver coinage. It is moreover a notorious fact that a Chinaman cares more for silver than for paper; when often hard pressed for money in the treasury, and a demand has been made by a Chinaman, he has preferred to wait for coin, than accept a draft, though leaving the Settlement for Rangoon or Moulmein.

7. Doubtless convicts do receive money from their relatives in India, and doubtless some convicts possess money, the amount of which is not known. I am not aware of any Bank notes being introduced by convicts. Bank notes are of course recognised as legal tender at this treasury, under recent instructions from the Accountant General of British Burmah, but no such tender has yet been made by either convicts or free residents; indeed, I should not allow these to be received from the former.

8. No money that I am aware of is ever received by the convicts through the Post Office. If the convict hereafter receives silver from his relations by any private means, and such coin, as is proposed, is not current in the Settlement, it would be of no use to him; he would not dare to tender it, either at the treasury or in any bazar; and the Police regulations of the Settlement under Act XXVII of 1861 ought to prevent his putting cash into the hands of free sailors or released convicts quitting Port Blair.

9. *Second.*—From what I have stated above, it will appear that I am quite opposed to a continuance of the use of the rupee and its silver fractions in the Settlement; and am of opinion that, under the arrangements I have proposed in considering your first proposition, that there is no need whatever for silver coinage in this Settlement, save to give in exchange for tokens to free individuals on the occasion of their quitting the Settlement.

10. The difficulty that suggests itself to you, with regard to the payment of European troops, I am not prepared to say anything decided about; nor can I obtain accurate information on the subject; but I should imagine, as I have already stated, that the payment of the British soldier in copper tokens and pice could be effected by legislative enactment.

11. I do not see how the soldier could make any objection to receive his pay in copper if he can obtain remittance drafts from the treasury on tender of such coin, and the equivalent of any he may possess in silver on his relief from duty from the Settlement.

No 390, dated 26th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to inquire whether there are any local rules or orders of Government prohibiting the importation of tobacco in this Settlement.

No. 52, dated 27th April, 1867.

From—LIEUT. A. F. LAUGHTON, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to inform you, in reply to your Memo. No. 390, dated 26th April, that I am not aware of any rules prohibiting the importation of tobacco, more than that nothing can be landed here without a permit of the Superintendent, who, I believe, does not now allow any tobacco to be imported, except by the Commissariat.

No. 401, dated 27th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to enquire whether there is any rule in this Settlement prohibiting the importation of tobacco, except through the Commissariat; if not, whether it would not be as well to have such a rule.

No. 42, dated 27th April, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In acknowledging the receipt of Memo. No. 401, of this day's date, the undersigned has the honor to state that there is no rule in this Settlement prohibiting the importation of tobacco, except through the Commissariat Department. There could be no objection whatever to such a rule being established; but I would suggest that the free Chinese laborers, now residing in this Settlement, be permitted as heretofore to obtain their *own Chinese* tobacco on "pass," and that petty shopkeepers may be permitted to import "cavendish" and other foreign tobacco and cheroots, for which there is a great demand amongst the free residents of this Settlement.

No. 100, dated 4th April, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to append, for the information of the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, a return showing number of indigenous and exotic fruit

and flower trees and shrubs now in existence on Ross Island, in compliance with his personal request on the subject.

Return of indigenous and exotic fruit trees, shrubs, and flowers, including forest and ornamental young trees now in existence on Ross Island, Port Blair.

DESCRIPTION OF TREES, &C.

Bael.	Betlenut.	Jack.	Lemon.	Lime.	Mango.	Guavas.	Plum.	Gooseberry.	Plantain.	Pomegranate.	Orange.	Cocoanut.	Tamarind.	Peipul or Seedam.	Popeta.	Bread-fruit tree.	Coffee.	Cotton.	Sagama or drum-stick.	Gangee plum.	Rose trees of various species.	Flowers of various species.	Gungoo or forest trees, large.	Gungoo or ornamental trees, young.	Bamboo.	Shrub of various kinds.	Marians or Cherry.
120	150	140	360	270	220	201	40	201	2066	21	208	1409	41	60	859	1	10	1065	100	40	2641	2440	100	520	300	100	50

Dated 4th May, 1867.

From—JAMES DOYLE, ESQ., *Overseer of Cultivation, Ross Island,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I beg to report for your information that the above is as accurate a return as can possibly be made of all indigenous and exotic fruit trees, shrubs, and flowers, including forest and ornamental young trees now in existence on Ross Island.

No. 369, dated 25th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request he may be furnished with a return of all the trees indigenous to this country which have been at various times planted and are now in existence at any station, except on Ross Island. Plantains and pine-apples and such like do not come within the catalogue of trees.

No. 109, dated 7th May, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to forward a list shewing name and description of non-indigenous trees planted on the Settlement, and now in existence in Port Blair, except those on Ross Island.

Return of non-indigenous trees planted and now in existence on any part of the Settlement of Port Blair.

Year when planted.	Station where now in existence.	Description of Trees.																						Remarks.
		Coconut.	Bael.	Jack.	Penang Jack.	Lemon.	Mango.	Citron.	Pumlow.	Orange.	Almond.	Nutmeg.	Dorian.	Mangostein.	Coffee.	Betlenut.	Tamarind.	Guava.	Plums.	Mulberry.	Cotton.	Cassinut.	Burmah apple.	
1867	Port Mouat ...	1500	20	100	...	...	100	...	100	...	...	...	...	...	20	100	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	These were only planted in the beginning of 1867.
1859 & '60	Viper Island ...	70	...	35	...	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Succeeded.
1863 & '64	" ...	79	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
1866 & '67	" ...	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Thriving well.
1861	Haddo ...	*13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	Marked * are all successful, and the remainder are young.
1863	" ..	410	...	...	...	*4	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	105	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	
1864	" ...	...	...	498	...	97	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	...	*4	...	...	...	...	...	
1865	" ...	9	8	...	...	85	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	43	59	3	...	*2424	...	...	
1866	" ...	334	...	365	...	75	11	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	21	41	5	...	1917	...	...	
1867	" ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	1710	...	...	
1861	Chatham Island ...	*50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	*1	...	...	...	...	...	...	Marked * are all successful, and the remainder are young.
1864	" ...	...	...	...	...	*1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1865	" ...	...	...	6	...	14	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1863	Mount Harriet ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Thriving well.
1864	" ...	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
1865	" ...	...	...	2	...	5	4	...	5	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
1866	" ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	
1867	" ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1864	Hope Town ...	38	19	77	...	33	4	33	11	20	...	...	4	...	10	...	35	...	...	...	...	43	10	Thrive pretty fair.
1858	Aberdeen ...	58	...	48	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Succeeded.
1860	" ...	45	...	...	...	3	29	...	17	...	...	40	...	...	...	900	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	Thriving well.
1864	" ...	28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
1866	" ..	92	...	25	...	20	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	800	...	...	Ditto.
		2851	47	1156	1	363	180	33	133	26	1	52	4	...	30	1189	162	104	17	3	6851	43	10	

PORT BLAIR,
7th May, 1867.

(Sd.) B. FORD, LIEUT.-COLONEL,
Superintendent, Port Blair.

No. 397, dated 27th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*
To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, by direction, to request you will furnish a list shewing the names of the varieties and quantities of each description of exotic tree and vegetable you have now ready to plant, mentioning where they are to be seen.

No. 125, dated 6th May, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*
To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge receipt of Memorandum No. 397, of 27th ultimo, from the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, and to forward, as therein called for, the list showing name, variety, and quantity of each description of exotic tree and vegetable that are now ready to be planted. These are to be seen at the out-stations noted in the list.

List showing name, variety, and quantity of each description of exotic tree and vegetable now ready to plant, mentioning where they are to be seen.

AT ROSS ISLAND.

120	no.	Pumlow (plants.)
90	„	Tamarind „
40	„	Orange „
10	„	Lime „
90	„	Rose „

AT HADDO.

9,997	lbs.	Goeeah (A species of Yam.)
2,759	„	Yams.
2,640	„	Chinese Potatoes.
1,795	no.	White Pumpkins (plants.)
16,285	„	Pine-apple (plants)
5½	lbs.	Cucumbers.
7,913	„	Tamarind.
6,018	no.	Mustard (Chinese plants.)
8,893	„	Sour Sorrel.
8	lbs.	Chillies.
8,895	no.	Plantain (plants.)
226	„	Kurrellah „
6,986	„	Brinjal „
17,218	„	Radish „
1,305	„	Sugar-cane „
387	„	Karen Potatoes „
214	„	Cocoanuts ready for transplanting under care of the Overseer of Cultivation at Haddo.
1	case	containing European vegetable seeds.
1	„	„ Country „ „
1	package of	„ „ „

AT MOUNT HARRIET.

1,000	no.	Brinjals (plants.)
400	„	Chillies „
50	„	Cocoanuts „
100	„	Cucumbers „
1,000	„	Indian-corns „
800	„	Bindee „
50	„	Kurrellah „
100	„	Pumpkins „
50	„	Vegetable marrow „
50	„	Torraie „
100	„	Plantains (large kind) plants.
100	„	„ small „ „
100	„	„ (Maulmain species)
500	„	Pine-apples (plant.)

AT NAVY BAY POINT.

10	lbs.	Mokah (seed.)
2	„	Red Pumpkins.
1	„	White „ seed.

AT NAVY BAY POINT.—(*Continued.*)

1	lb.	Kuddoo	seed.
2	„	Torraie	„
1	„	Brinjal	„
2	„	Bindee	„
1	„	Chillies	„
1	„	Cucumbers	„
2	„	Bhajie	„
¼	„	Kurrellah	„
40	„	Chinese Potatoes.	

AT PORT MOUAT.

1,500	no.	Cocoanut trees.	
20	„	Bael	„
100	„	Jack	„
100	„	Lemon	„
		Pumlow	„
		Citron	„
100	„	Mango	„
20	„	Coffee	„
100	„	Betel-nut	„
50	„	Tamarind	„

No. 54, dated 29th April, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to forward enclosed, for your information, copy of a letter which I have this day addressed to the Deputy Commissioner of Mergui, on the subject of procuring a supply of "dhunee" leaves for the Settlement.

2. On the occasion of my recently sending the schooner "Alexandra" for taking in a cargo of leaves, the Deputy Commissioner of Mergui only supplied me with such quantity as the Captain had the means, by a private draft of his own on the Mergui Treasury, of paying for, as it was very disappointing getting a full cargo; and as I much require "dhunee," having been disappointed by the non-arrival of five Kattoo loads for which I had given "passes," I request the favor of your being so good as to issue such instructions to the Deputy Commissioner as will ensure me a good supply.

P. S.—Two Schooners leaves for Mergui in a day or two.

No. 119, dated 29th April, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Deputy Commissioner, Mergui.

I have the honor to inform you that the schooners "Lady Lawrence" and "Alexandra' have received instructions to proceed to Mergui for the purpose of taking in a cargo of dhunee leaves.

2. As the leaves are urgently required at this Settlement, I shall feel much obliged by your rendering all the assistance you can in procuring thatch, and by your advancing the necessary amount for purchase of the same, and defraying any contingent expenses connected therewith, on receipt of a memo. of which, the sum will be remitted from this treasury by first opportunity offering.

No. 440, dated 1st May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Deputy Commissioner, Mergui.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will have the goodness to purchase and pay for as much dhunee as the schooners "Lady Lawrence" and "Alexandra" can carry; the amount is to be debited to Port Blair, and adjusted with the Superintendent of that Settlement afterwards; but every endeavor should be made to load the schooners full and with despatch, as the Settlement of Port Blair is in immediate want of the leaves.

No. 441, dated 1st May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to forward copy of No. 440, of this day's date, relative to procuring dhunee from Mergui for Port Blair.

2. I understand the "Lady Lawrence" has been some three weeks at Port Blair. The Commander informs me he had some slight repairs to make to the copper of the vessel, which took two days; but as dhunee is in such demand here, some explanation is necessary as to the apparent length of time the schooner has been in port doing nothing.

No. 80, dated 2nd May, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Memo. No. 441, of the 1st instant, upon the subject of the "Lady Lawrence" having apparently remained in this port for a length of time doing nothing, and with reference thereto, beg to append for your information documents numbered 1 to 5 as under:—

No. 1 reports the arrival of the "Lady Lawrence" at this port on the 9th April 1867.

No 2 reports a portion of the copper sheeting being off fore foot of the schooner.

No 3 suggests the beaching of the schooner at Phœnix Bay as being preferable to that at Ross Island.

No 4 reports the vessel as being ready for sea. This document is dated the 27th April. On the 29th of April, the Commander required a supply of water. On the 30th the same was put on board, as well as a supply of firewood. On the 1st instant the schooner sailed for Mergui.

No 5 is the Harbour Master's Report upon the apparent detention of the schooner.

No. 45, dated 8th April, 1867.

From—CAPTAIN W. P. AVERY, *Commander, "Lady Lawrence,"*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to report the arrival of H. M.'s schooner "Lady Lawrence" from Rangoon 25th March, *viâ* Table Island 4th April, arriving at this port 7th April.

Cargo consists of 800 bundles of rattan and 42 bales of tobacco for the Commissariat Department, and 45 kegs of nails for Executive Engineer. I shall now await your further orders.

No. 46, dated 10th April, 1867.

From—CAPTAIN W. AVERY, *Commander, "Lady Lawrence,"*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to report for your information, that a piece of copper, about nine inches long, is off the fore foot of H. M.'s schooner "Lady Lawrence," also several nails are out of one or two upper sheets on either bow.

I would therefore respectfully request that the vessel be beached a tide to have the copper put on the fore foot, unless a diver could be obtained to go down and do it.

No. 48, dated 16th April, 1867.

From—CAPTAIN W. P. AVERY, *Commander, "Lady Lawrence."*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

Instructions are respectfully requested from the Superintendent relative to beaching H. M.'s schooner "Lady Lawrence."

I would beg to state that, in consequence of the ground swell setting in the harbour, it would render beaching the vessel in Ross Island Beach dangerous, and I would therefore respectfully suggest Phœnix Bay as preferable.

No. 49, dated 27th April, 1867.

From—CAPTAIN W. P. AVERY, *Commander "Lady Lawrence,"*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor to state, for your information, that the repairs of the copper of H. M.'s. schooner "Lady Lawrence" are completed, the vessel ballasted, and in readiness for sea.

I have found the vessel's bottom in very good order, excepting several nails out of the copper, and a narrow strip of copper off the forefoot.

I should recommend the "Lady Lawrence" being docked after the monsoon.

No. 5, dated 2nd May, 1867.

From—C. DARWOOD, ESQ., *Harbour Master, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

In reply to your Memo. No. 151, of this day's date, calling on me to furnish you with an explanation regarding the apparent detention of the schooner "Lady Lawrence," I have the honor to state that the repairs to the copper alone took seven days, owing to there being a heavy surf at the time, which prevented her being beached, and consequently the vessel had to be run up to Phœnix Bay and repaired there. After the repair to her copper was effected, Captain Avery applied to this department for carpenters and blacksmiths, to carry on some repairs and alterations which were required aboard, before the setting in of the monsoon. These repairs were not completed before the evening of the 29th ultimo.

They had been indented for in January last, but not completely complied with owing to the hurried departure of the vessel for Rangoon.

No. 573, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.*

I beg to tender you my best thanks for the readiness with which you have aided me in inquiring into Commissariat matters here. The preparation of the several heavy returns with which you have furnished me, must I fear have cost you much labor.

2. Regarding the state of the Commissariat cattle, a copy of the Committee's recommendations on this head will be furnished to Colonel Ford, and I shall assure the Chief Commissioner of my confidence in your desire to effect whatever suggestions may be made, for improving the condition of the cattle.

3. There is one point, however, which I desire to bring to your notice, and that is, when cattle or sheep are landed here in a bad condition, very strict inquiry should be made as to the cause of their deterioration; and another, proceedings should be recorded. This is necessary for your own security; indeed, we find even human beings do not always receive that consideration on board-ship, which they are supposed to have.

4. Regarding the increase to your Office establishment, that will be considered by the Chief Commissioner.

No. 574, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Executive Engineer, Port Blair.*

I beg to tender you my best thanks for the map showing the several stations here, and also for the list detailing the public buildings, &c., erected or in course of erection, the preparation of which must, I fear, have cost you some trouble.

No. 575, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—CAPTAIN DEKAYNE, *Commanding Troops, Port Blair.*

I beg to return you my best thanks for the recommendation you have made on the subject of improving the strength of the Police force; some of your proposals are excellent, and have been recommended for adoption by the Committee.

No. 577, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—J. N. HOMFRAY, ESQ., *Assistant to Superintendent, Port Blair, in charge Port Mouat.*

I desire to tender you my best thanks for the interesting report with which you have favored me on the subject of messing the convict gang under your charge. I hope it may continue to be as successful as it is undoubtedly useful.

No. 578, dated 14th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—CAPTAIN THE HON'BLE J. H. FRASER, *Assistant Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I beg you will accept my most cordial thanks for the assistance you have rendered me in my visits to the several stations of the Settlement.

The information you have at all times been ready to afford has been of much use in enabling me to form an opinion on many matters connected with this interesting Settlement.

No. 587, dated 15th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

To—SURGEON W. H. REAN, *Senior Medical Officer, and President Sanitary Committee, Port Blair.*

I desire, in the name of the Chief Commissioner, to convey his best thanks to you and the members of the Committee, of which you are president, for the valuable services rendered in compiling the report which has been furnished on the several important questions submitted for your consideration.

The report is replete with valuable information, and bears witness to the industry and ability with which the several subjects have been treated.

No. 231, dated 27th March, 1867.

From—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 231 of 16th instant, upon the subject of the supply of vegetables to troops at Port Blair, and with reference thereto, beg to enclose copy of a letter to my address, as per margin, with enclosure, which gives the information required.

No. 679 of 26th May 1867. From Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair, with enclosure.

No. 679, dated 26th March, 1867.

From—LIEUT. A. F. LAUGHTON, R. E., *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

In reply to your Memorandum No. 3300 of 25th March, I have the honor to inform you that we have a good supply of potatoes on hand, and may have some difficulty in disposing of those sent by Colonel Benson before they get bad. I am issuing them to the bunniahs to the extent they are willing to receive them, to enable me to reduce my stock. I expect a further supply of 10,000 lbs. from Calcutta any day.

2. We ran short lately to a greater extent than we would have otherwise done, in consequence of 7,000 lbs. having arrived in a rotten state in the "King Arthur."

3. It is very difficult to keep up a sufficient supply of potatoes for issue to troops, as they so speedily become rotten.

4. It is a very rare circumstance that I experience any difficulty in providing vegetables, generally yams and sweet potatoes for the troops, and I always have preserved potatoes on hand, which are a very good substitute to issue, when I am deficient in any particular item of the vegetable ration. I am now expecting a supply of yams from Burmah, a portion of which has arrived by the "Kwang Tung."

5. I enclose a tabular statement of vegetables, &c., issued to troops since January, 1866, which sets forth clearly the proportion of each item that has been issued.

6. The column for "vegetables" denotes chiefly yams and sweet potatoes, also pumpkins, brinjals, or any native vegetables produced in the Settlement by self-supporters, such as are issued in India to troops.

Tabular Statement of the Vegetable Rations issued to Troops at Port Blair from 1st January 1866.

1	2	3	4	5	6.
MONTHS.	Potatoes.	Preserved Potatoes.	Onions.	Yams.	REMARKS
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	
January, 1866 ...	2,250	210	.....	.....	
February " ...	1,018	264	357	1,263	
March " ...	1,703	.....	790	1,568	
April " ...	2,627	.....	365	1,262	
May " ..	40	.....	699	1,654	
June " ...	231	.....	767	2,069	
July " ...	428	88	727	1,577	
August " ...	.....	.....	298	2,846	
September " ...	.....	.....	178	2,935	19,457
October " ...	97	.....	185	3,002	
November " ...	548	.....	687	1,902	
December " ...	.....	180	804	1,688	
January, 1867 ...	154	134	824	1,784	
February " ...	596	219	725	702	

(Signed) A. F. LAUGHTON, LIEUT.,
Sub-Assistant Commissary General.

No. 423, dated 29th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request he may be furnished with a return (monthly) of vegetables issued from 1st May, 1866 to present date, showing what were purchased here, and what procured from abroad.

No. 81, dated 6th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT. A. F. LAUGHTON, R. E., *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to enclose a return of Vegetables as called for in your Memo. No. 423, dated 29th April, 1867.

Return of Vegetables issued from 1st May, 1866.

Months.	European and Country Vegetable procured from abroad.								European and Country Vegetables, the produce of the Settlement.				Remarks.
	Potatoes.		Preserved Potatoes.		Onions.		Vegetables.		European Vegetables.		Country Vegetables.		
	lb.	Cost.	lb.	Cost.	lb.	Cost.	lb.	Cost.	lb.	Cost.	lb.	Cost.	
May, 1866	2,796 2 0	.....	.....	.....	2,149 3 12	.....	4,438 6 8	.....	...	...	.....	.....	
June "	1,935 0 0	.....	.....	.....	2,238 9 0	.....	2,416 4 0	.....	...	...	561 0 0	35 1 0	
July "	2,159 10 0	.....	146 2 0	.....	3,550 6 8	.....	8,214 6 0	.....	...	...	908 0 0	60 3 0	
August "	.....	.....	67 9 0	.....	489 9 0	.....	5,003 11 0	.....	...	..	.....	.....	
September "	.....	.....	125 10 0	.....	291 7 12	.....	3,278 8 0	.....	...	...	584 0 0	48 10 8	
October "	145 1 0	.....	0 12 0	.....	703 1 4	.....	7,212 9 0	.....	...	...	.....	.....	
November "	7,332 15 0	.....	1 14 0	.....	5,876 8 8	.....	2,676 7 0	.....	...	...	.....	.....	
December, "	.....	.....	317 7 0	.....	2,404 10 8	.....	2,199 0 0	.....	...	...	598* 0 0	37 6 0	* This quantity was supplied from the Government garden, for which no charge was made, but the rate has been fixed at 1 anna per lb.
January 1867.	2,161 10 0	.....	161 6 0	.....	5,574 4 12	.....	2,325 14 8	.....	...	...	.....	.....	
February "	2,503 6 0	.....	424 2 0	.....	10,763 8 8	.....	947 0 0	.....	...	...	.....	.....	
March "	12,265 0 0	.....	.....	.....	7,665 5 8	.....	257 8 0	.....	...	...	.....	.....	
Total ...	31,298 12 0	*B.* 2,934 4 2	1,244 14 0	622 7 0	41,706 11 10	2,606 10 11	38,969 10 0	3,653 6 3	...	...	2,651 0 0	171 4 8	

(*B.*) Approximate cost.

(Signed) A. F. LAUGHTON, Lieut.,
Sub-Assist. Commissary General.

No. 448, dated 2nd May, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To— Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to request you will furnish him with a statement shewing the amount of vegetables and fish sold monthly in the bazar at Ross Island for the last twelve months.

No. 83, dated 3rd May, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to forward enclosed a statement shewing the amount of vegetables and fish sold monthly on Ross Island market for the last twelve months, as called for in your Memo. No. 448 of yesterday's date.

Statement of Vegetables, Fruits, and Fish sold for the last 12 months on Ross Island market.

Month.	Vegetables.	Fruits.	Fish
1866.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
May	2,810	2,393	1,606
June	10,537	3,582	1,302
July	6,475	1,622	762
August	10,590	1,450	2,356
September	5,492	1,673	1,045
October	7,156	3,592	3,796
November	12,303	7,852	3,129
December	10,828	6,583	2,918
1867.			
January	11,622	5,904	4,457
February	4,676	7,360	2,911
March	4,982	9,101	3,246
April	7,767	13,823	4,328
Total ...	95,238	64,935	31,856

No. 563, dated 13th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to call your attention to the return of vegetables issued by the Commissariat Department, from 1st May, 1866 to March 1867, and to observe that there is a striking discrepancy between this statement and that forwarded through the Superintendent of the Settlement, dated in your Office 26th March, 1867.

2. In the first named statement you show, as obtained from Settlement cultivators, 19,457 lbs. of vegetables, and in that sent in on 6th May, 1867, only 2,053 lbs. are shown as procured from the same source.

3. Now Colonel Ford states there were 95,238 lbs. vegetables sold in the market ; if this is correct, why did the Commissariat purchase to such a large extent from abroad, instead of utilising the products of the place.

4. It appears not only is there not enough vegetables procured here to enable you to supply the troops without running the convicts short, but that the supply from the Settlement is so totally inadequate, that you actually have to import vegetables for the bunniahs, and also from time to time for convicts at out-stations. May I request you will state whether I am correct on this head ?

No. 125, dated 13th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT. A. F. LAUGHTON, R. E., *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 563, dated 13th May, relative to the apparent discrepancy in my two statements of vegetables issued since May, 1866.

2. The concluding para. of my letter dated 26th March to the Superintendent was not intended to show the quantity of vegetables produced on the Settlement, but the quantity issued, in distinction to potatoes, onions, &c. There should be a division in the wording before brinjals and country vegetables, as it was only those articles, amounting to 2,053 lbs, which were produced in the Settlement

3. Ninety-five thousand two hundred and thirty-three lbs of vegetables in the year amounts to only 264 lbs. per diem, which is no very great quantity for the inhabitants of Ross Island. I never purchased in the market if I could help it, considering that did I do so, the convicts would be deprived of this article so necessary for them, of which it never struck me there was an abundant supply, except once, at the season when cucumbers came in. At this time I noticed numbers of convicts going about eating them raw with eagerness.

4. I have always supplied what the bunniahs applied for. If I had a large quantity of yams, &c., or even potatoes on hand, I have issued them if they wished for them, and sometimes I have refused their application not having any to spare.

No. 458, dated 2nd May, 1867.

From—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to request you will be good enough to forward me copies of any medical reports or letters submitted to you by the late Surgeon Morton, Assistant Surgeon Gamack, or the Executive Commissariat Officer, bringing to notice the scarcity of vegetable diet, in connection with the unhealthy state of the prisoners during 1866.

No. 122, dated 8th May, 1867.

From—Lieut.-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 458, of the 2nd instant, requesting me to forward you copies of any medical reports or letters submitted to me by the late Surgeon Major Morton, Assistant Surgeon Gamack, or the Executive Commissariat Officer, bringing to notice the scarcity of vegetable diet, in connection with the unhealthy state of the prisoners during 1866; and in reply beg to inform you, that I did not receive any medical reports or letter from either of those officers during 1866 on the subject.

2. I received once a *note* from Dr. Morton, when the convicts first went to Port Mouat, applying for a supply of vegetables, which was provided for by this Office order of the 14th June, 1866, copy attached.

Dated 14th June, 1866.

Settlement Order.

Circular order to Overseers of Haddo, Mouat, Harriet, Viper and Aberdeen.

This is to direct you, as far as lays in your power, to assist Khadir, vegetable jemadar, to collect from the Settlement gardens a supply of vegetables for transmission to Port Mouat twice a week for the use of the free and convict residents of that station. "Khadir" will have to account for the value of these vegetables at this office. As the vegetables will be sent every Monday and Thursday mornings, he should be assisted with such supplies as you can give him on the previous day's afternoons.

No. 548, dated 10th May, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Inspector of Police, Port Blair.

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that I hear several complaints as regards the scarcity of vegetables here. Would you please state whether your policemen at Ross and other stations are well supplied with vegetables, the produce of this Settlement, and also with fish? Do you consider the rates charged for these articles too high to be well within the means of the privates of your Police force?

Dated 11th May, 1867.

From—Mr. G. M. Doughty, *Inspector of Police, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

In reply to your letter No. 548, of yesterday's date, I beg most respectfully to state that the Police are not well supplied with vegetables and fish. I have received many complaints from the constables on this matter when visiting the different stations.

I further beg to state that a private Policeman can afford to pay at the rates (for vegetables and fish) as laid down by the Superintendent of Port Blair; but that they could not afford to pay at the rates asked by the self-supporting cultivators, which is generally one hundred per cent. above the market rate.

No. 550, dated 10th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H. N. DAVIS, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Officer Commanding Sappers and Miners, Ross Island; and Officer Commanding 25th Regt. N. I., Viper Island.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to inquire whether the Sappers and Native Infantry under your command respectively, are well supplied with vegetables, the produce of this Settlement. Do you consider the price charged too high, and could you suggest any means for enhancing the supply of fresh vegetables, and also fish, for the men of your Company.

No. 56, dated, 13th May, 1867.

From—CAPTAIN R. P. DEKAYNE, *Commanding Detachment, Sappers and Miners, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

No. 550, dated 10th May 1867.

I have the honor, in reply to your letter marginally noted, to say that the want of vegetables is much felt by the Sappers here, who, in India as a rule, use them in large quantities, and they tend generally to keep them in good health.

I subjoin a price list of vegetables sold in the market here, furnished by the Subadar of the Company, with the price of which such are sold in India; the difference in the two is considerable.

As regards enhancing the supply of vegetables, I see two ways;—one for supplying the market generally, the other simply for supplying the Company. To ensure the *first*, the way would be to compel self-supporters to furnish the market with so many pounds of vegetables monthly at a fixed price; the *second* to establish a Sapper garden at Aberdeen, which can be done easily by ground, where water is obtainable, being allotted, and one convict allowed as a watchman to reside on the spot.

Wednesday is in part a holiday with the men, and on that day digging, fencing in, and planting, could be done without entrenching on the days for work, with now and then a party of an evening after work to keep the garden in order, and for watering. In this way I believe we could supply ourselves, and perhaps have vegetables over for sale.

A supply of fish daily for the Company can easily be obtained, judging from the success of others who possess boats, and a boat furnished us is all that is required, and which would answer at the same time for perfecting the men in towing.

VEGETABLES.		Port Blair price.			Indian price.			REMARKS.
Brinjal ...	..., 1 lb.	0	1	0	0	0	3	
Sour Greens ...	...	0	0	9	0	0	2	
Callabash ...	... 7 lbs.	0	4	6	0	0	6	
Cocoanut ...	.. 1 „	0	3	0	0	0	6	
Green Plantains...	... 2 „	0	2	0	0	0	9	
Cucumber ...	... 1 „	0	0	9	0	0	1	
Radish ...	...	0	0	3	0	0	1	
Greens ...	... 3 bdls.	0	0	9	0	0	1	
Pumpkin ...	... 5 lbs.	0	5	0	0	0	1	Madras price.
Fish ..	.. 1 „	0	0	9	0	0	3	
Salt Fish ...	... 1 „	0	6	0	0	1	6	
Pickencoi ...	... 1 „	0	1	0	0	0	3	
Mutton ...	... 1 „	0	4	0	0	2	0	

No. 78, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—LIEUT. G. RANDALL, *Commanding Detachment 25th Regiment N. I., Viper Island,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

In reply to your letter No: 550, dated 10th May, I have the honor to inform you that the supply of fresh vegetables on this island being very small, it is very seldom that any of the men of my detachment can procure any from the market here. On Sunday I believe a few vegetables are brought over from other parts of the Settlement, but they are mostly sold to the convicts.

I cannot say whether the price charged here is too high, but I am informed that it is just twice that charged in Moulmein. I have been in the habit of allowing a sepoy to go now and then to Haddo and Aberdeen, for the purpose of purchasing vegetables for my men, and I would suggest that a small supply might be sent over from either of those places or from Mount Harriet, where I believe there is a fine supply of vegetables.

The supply of fish is also very small, nine seers have been received in one week, but this week only three seers have been received for 90 men. I do not think the fishermen do their best to keep us well supplied with fish here. There is no reason that I can see why we should not be as well off in that respect as other places in the Settlement, a great number the fish that are taken to Chatham and Ross being caught in this part of the Bay.

No. 335, dated 19th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Superintendent, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to enquire if there has been any scarcity of water in Ross Island during the present hot season; the effect of the clearances made will probably become more apparent year after year. The undersigned would wish to know what steps are being taken to enhance the supply of fresh water in Ross Island.

No. 22, dated 22nd April, 1867.

Memo. from—LIEUT.-COLONEL B. FORD, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

The undersigned has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of memorandum from the Chief Commissioner's office No. 335 of the 19th instant, received this day at 2 P. M., enquiring if there has been any scarcity of water during the present hot season.

2. In reply, the undersigned begs to state that there has been *no scarcity*, the tanks had about dried, but were yielding water by deepening, and the wells were all giving an adequate supply for the wants of the Island; when on the 9th instant the first rains fell, and have at intervals since continued, putting in a good supply of water into the tanks, and which will be quite sufficient till the south-west monsoon breaks.

3. With regard to the enquiry as to what steps have been taken to enhance the supply of fresh water, the undersigned has the honor to state that, in this Office letter No. 81 of the 27th August last, the attention of the Chief Commissioner was solicited as to the necessity of steps being taken by the Executive Engineer to increase the water supply of the three Islands of this port. On the 28th November, the late Executive Engineer, F. C. Marshall, Esquire, having been desired by the Chief Engineer, to submit a project on the matter, had an interview with the Superintendent, at which the undersigned stated his views to him on the subject, and understood that he would submit a report with a scheme of operations to the Chief Engineer, British Burmah.

4. As the dry season however approached, and nothing had been done, the undersigned had to take upon himself to make such provision as he could for the water supply of the Settlement. The monthly reports on the affairs of this Settlement for December, January, and February have all shown what the undersigned has done in this respect.

5. The undersigned would beg to suggest that the Executive Engineer's project be called for; for upwards of eight months have now elapsed since attention was drawn to the necessity for a suitable provision for an enhanced supply of water.

6. It may be mentioned that a condensor was received four months ago from Rangoon; but owing to the incomplete state in which it was received, it is to be regretted that it has not been found practicable to turn it to account.

No. 345, dated 23rd April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Senior Medical Officer and President, Sanitary Committee, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor, with reference to his No. 329, to state that he has this evening inspected nearly all the wells on Ross Island (some nine or ten,) but in only one or two is there a good supply of water The bheesties say after the morning supply is taken out, the majority of wells are empty, and the undersigned saw convicts endeavoring to obtain a supply from the droppings off the rocks. One man stated that until the recent rains, the water the convicts had to use, was "meat and drink" so impure was it. The water supply is a very serious matter; it affects not only Ross, but Chatham, Viper, and generally the high localities, which are stations, and it may be necessary to limit the number of barracks for the accommodation of prisoners, with reference to the water supply. It is evident the supply must be limited, and digging more wells will not remedy the evil. No pains have been taken to replace the jungle clearings by planting wholesome shrubs, and it is submitted, for the consideration of the Committee, whether the planting of shrubs and trees should not be set about vigorously, as a partial though late remedy, for an increasing evil of great magnitude.

No. 386, dated 26th April, 1867.

Memo. from—MAJOR H. N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Mr. Apothecary Norman.

I have the honor to state that, from many of the convicts I have heard complaints of the scarcity of water. As you reside in the midst of the new barracks, and your profession brings you in close contact with many of them, I request you will favor me with a true statement of the case, and state whether you consider the men have had room for complaint or not.

No. 831, dated 27th April, 1867.

From—J. NORMAN, ESQ., *Second Apothecary, Madras Medical Establishment, Port Blair,*

To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

With reference to your Memorandum No 386 of yesterday's date, on the subject of certain complaints made by convicts about the scarcity of water on Ross Island during the months of February and March, 1867, I beg to state for your information that the men had just cause to complain; the supply of water during the above mentioned months being very scarce; all the wells situated at the south end of this Island having become dry, and the demand being greater than what could be supplied from the several wells and tanks situated here.

I beg to append copy of a letter from the Senior Medical Officer, to the address of the Superintendent, Port Blair, and reply from the Executive Engineer on this subject.

No. 764, dated 26th March, 1867.

From—DR A J. COWIE, *Senior Medical Officer, Port Blair,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor to bring to your notice that the fresh water supply of this Island is becoming very scarce. What still remains in the wells and tanks now in use, should be husbanded as much as possible, and used chiefly for drinking purposes.

At present it would appear that we rely for our yearly supply of fresh water mainly on the rain-fall of each south-west monsoon.

It is advisable, therefore, to have sufficient reservoirs to store a quantity of water, to last at least twelve months, in anticipation of a possible drought some year Especially is this precaution necessary in this small Island, with a rapidly increasing population.

The present time is most favorable for deepening those sources of water supply which are in many instances nearly or quite dry, and I would suggest that the carrying out of this most essential work be attended to at once.

Trusting that the views which I have expressed on this subject will meet with your approval, I shall be only too happy to lend my experience in the construction of additional wells and tanks to the Department, whose direction it is to undertake the duty.

No. 486, dated 28th March, 1867.

From—LIEUT. W. G. CUMMING, R. E., *Executive Engineer, Port Blair,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 3286 E. E., of the 26th instant, together with its enclosure No. 764, from the Senior Medical Officer to your address, with reference to the scanty supply of water now existing in the Settlement, and suggesting that measures be taken to deepen those sources of supply which are nearly or quite dry.

In reply, I beg to state that I have already given instructions to Mr. Supervisor Lindsay to deepen the small tank in front of the Mess building, and also to sink a second well in the Public Works store-yard, with a view of using this water for departmental purposes, and thereby husbanding the water in the main tank of Ross Island.

I beg to point out to you that something, however slight, has been undertaken by the Public Works Department towards obtaining and storing a supply of fresh water, both at Perseverance Point and Aberdeen, where extensive masonry bunds are under construction, and Mr. Pope has also assisted in the construction of wells, both at Navy Bay Point and Haddo during the season.

In a small Island so thickly populated as Ross, and where so few permanent springs exist, I should always anticipate a slight scarcity of water for a month or so previous to the setting in of the south-west monsoon, and proper precautions are only required to husband the supply of water during that time, and prevent its being needlessly wasted by convicts for bathing purposes. I would further suggest that the condensor be set at work without delay, as its services will be only required from this time to the commencement of the south-west monsoon.

In conclusion, I beg to state that I will take an early opportunity of consulting personally with Dr. Cowie, and will endeavor to carry out any suggestions he may offer towards the object of obtaining a more plentiful supply of water in the Settlement.

No. 527, dated 7th May, 1867.

From—MAJOR H N. DAVIES, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

I have the honor, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, to state that some prisoners have complained to me regarding the expense of their clothes being washed. They say the dhobies charge them one anna for washing a jacket, and one anna for a pair of trowsers or dhotee; that they have to get clothes washed twice a month, because if they wash their own,

they are told they are not white enough, and are liable to get stripes if their clothes are not up to the mark.

2. Of course, it is proper prisoners' clothes should be clean, but it does seem to me hard that a prisoner, on say two annas a day, has to do for four days in the month on one anna, merely to put money into the hands of men who charge an exorbitant price for a small amount of labor, for I suppose one dhoby could wash, with the greatest ease, 100 of the prisoners' dungaree jackets a day.

3. I can easily understand that a dhoby, who wished to make matters unpleasant, could arrange with a gangsman to come down on an unfortunate prisoner, who didn't choose to patronise him, and I should like to see this one door to oppression at any rate closed.

4. I desire to know if there would be any objection to the gangs of prisoners being paraded, say every Saturday evening, for the purpose of washing their clothes, and that such washing having been properly done, be accepted on the Sunday parade as sufficient.

5. I must add, I think it a great pity, that the Native prejudices of requiring only one particular set of men to do one particular work, should be fostered in the slightest degree in Penal Settlement; and I am quite sure four annas will be better spent on the prisoners' food an in any extra polish the dhoby may give to their jackets.

No. 148, dated 11th May, 1867.

From—Lieut-Colonel B. Ford, *Superintendent, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 527 of the 7th instant in which, by direction of the Chief Commissioner, you bring to my notice that certain prisoners have complained to you regarding the expense of their clothes being washed, stating that dhobies charge them one anna per piece, and that they are liable to get stripes if they produce clothes that are not white enough.

2. I cannot but express my astonishment that this complaint has reached you; for during the whole three and a half years during which I have been on this Settlement, such a complaint has never reached myself, either directly or indirectly.

3. No convict has ever been required by me to have his clothes washed by a dhoby. On the contrary, it has always been an understood thing that the convict should wash his own clothes, which I have over and over again seen them doing, and ironing them in native fashion with a brass lotah or glass bottle filled with hot water. If a convict goes to a dhoby to get his clothes washed, he does so of his own accord; certainly not, as far as I am aware of, by any compulsion. Even if he does go, the price represented by you as having charged for washing is in excess of the Settlement "nerrick," as fixed by my predecessor, Lieut.-Col. R. C. Tytler, whose "nerrick" was about 2½ pice per piece, *see* copy attached But this "nerrick" was framed for free people as I understand, and not for convicts, as it will be observed that the washing of carpets, bed clothes, &c., is referred to therein, which are articles not allowed to be in possession of convicts.

4. With regard to your para. 3, I really do not believe that the oppression prevails that you consider exists. I shall however take early steps that will remove any doubt whatever in the matter.

5. There could be no objection to a Saturday evening clothes-washing parade taking place as proposed by you in para 4; certainly a man's own washing of his clothes shall, if they are produced fairly clean, be considered sufficient. With this remark I do not think it will be necessary for me to make any further reference regarding para. 5 of your letter under reply.

Dated 9th August, 1862.

Settlement order.

The "nerrick" for dhobies (not servants) for washing clothes from this date is at the rate of four rupees per hundred pieces, large or small. This does not include carpets, dhurrees, &c., but simply apparel, bed clothes, &c.

No. 313, dated 16th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

The undersigned has the honor to annex a statement of wastages on articles issued through the Commissariat at Port Blair during January, 1867, and to enquire what steps were taken to ascertain how such wastages occurred? What was the result of such enquiry, and what measures have been adopted to prevent a recurrence of the same?

Should you be in possession of any proceedings of a Court of Enquiry on the subject, the undersigned will be obliged by your submitting the same for his perusal.

Articles.	Quantity Issued.	Quantity Wasted.	Date of Receipt.
Attah	lbs. 35,158 0 0	lbs. 645 0 0	June, 1866.
Chennah or gram	" 95,762 0 0	" 2.324 0 0	November "
Chillies	" 3,091 12 0	" 28 8 0	Ditto.
Dholl	" 42,801 13 0	" 1,138 0 0	Novr. and Decr. 1866.
Ghee	" 13,624 13 0	" 271 4 0	October "
Ghoor	" 9,197 0 0	" 168 0 0	June "
Oil, Cocoanut	" 3,441 0 0	" 94 0 0	November "
" Mustard	" 6,492 8 0	" 424 12 0	Ditto.
Rice	" 1,72,569 1 0	" 6,954 0 0	Aug. and Decr. 1866.
Salt	" 1,988 11 8	" 108 0 0	March "
Sugar	" 17,606 13 0	" 333 8 0	June "
Wheat	" 87,842 0 0	" 2,257 0 0	November "

No. 27, dated 18th April, 1867.

From—Lieut. A. F. Laughton, R. E., *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*

To—Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Memo. No. 313, dated 16th April, 1867, requiring information on the subject of wastage.

2. A certain amount of wastage arising from the receipt, storing and issue of provisions is inevitable; this wastage is ascertained at the time of issue, and a statement drawn up at the close of each month, shewing the amount of it, which is written off my returns, on the authority of the Superintendent.

3. The method I adopt for ascertaining the wastage is as follows:—A store-keeper superintends the issue of every article, sees it weighed, and enters in a register kept for the purpose, the original weight as marked on it, the weight as then ascertained by him, and the wastage, which is the difference between the two.

4. Courts of Enquiry are held only in the event of extraordinary wastage.

Month.	Name of Article.	Quantity Issued.	Wastage.	Name of Article.	Quantity Issued.	Wastage.
			lbs.			lbs.
September, 1866 ...	Sugar.	13,179 6 3¾	277 0 0	Tobacco, B.	882 15 8	41 0 0
October " ...	"	13,743 10 0	276 0 0	"	703 2 0	56 0 0
November " ...	"	18,850 9 3¾	228 0 0	"	845 9 0	71 0 0
December " ...	"	16,051 9 12	225 0 0	"	1,092 9 12	76 0 0
January, 1867 ...	"	17,606 13 0	330 8 0	"	849 9 0	80 12 0
February " ...	"	11,166 9 12	128 0 0	"	1,108 1 4	98 8 0
September, 1866 ...	Wheat.	....	.....	Rice.	2,03,664 1 0	8,903 0 0
October " ...	"	.....	.....	"	2,10,599 4 0	9,234 0 0
November " ...	"	.....	.....	"	2,42,604 4 0	11,955 0 0
December " ...	"	....	.....	"	2,32,783 8 0	13,310 0 0
January 1867 ..	"	87,842 0 0	2,257 0 0	"	1,72,569 1 0	6,954 0 0
February " ...	"	55,205 0 0	1,795 0 0	"	2,32,057 10 0	8,132 8 0

No. 326, dated 19th April, 1867.

Memo. from—Major H. N. Davies, *Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah,*

To—Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair.

I have the honor to acknowledge your No. 27, of 18th instant, and to state the mere wastage from the tumbling about of articles during receipt, storing, and issuing, does not appear to be a satisfactory explanation of the great wastage which occurs in Commissariat stores at Port Blair. I must therefore trouble you again on the subject.

1*st*.—Whether on arrival of stores, say from Calcutta or Rangoon, the quantity actually received is actually tested with reference to the quantity said to have been shipped and entered in the Invoice, and for which you are charged in the books of the supplying officer?

2*nd*.—Is the quantity actually received and tested entered in your books, or the quantity said to have been shipped?

I understand you to say the wastage is ascertained at the time of issue, by seeing how much the article weighs, and deducting the difference between that and what is marked on the article. Please state by what method you ascertain that the weight marked on the article was the exact weight the box or bag contained, and that it was the true weight received by you.

I send you a list shewing the wastage on wheat, sugar, tobacco, and rice; the wastage on the three last articles is continuous month after month, and is really enormous.

mber last, (if I understand your method
n any means of knowing for certain that
bags?
destroyed by rain coming through the
ntity, and how the damage arose, and if
ittee assembled on the occasion? Are

a rotten state from the Government
s, and to what was the damage

No. 32, dated 20th April, 1867.

From—Lieut. A. F. Laughton, *Sub-Assistant Commissary General, Port Blair,*
To—*Secretary to Chief Commissioner, British Burmah.*

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 326, dated 19th April, calling on me for further information on the subject of wastage.

2. The wastage arising during the receipt and issue of stores would result solely from the friction and tumbling about of articles, and certainly would not be a satisfactory explanation of the wastage shown in my accounts, but that arising from the storing of provisions is inevitably great, being the result of the attacks of insects.

3. I enclose for your perusal copies of two letters from the Commissary General at Madras, and the Assistant Commissary General at Calcutta, on this subject, from which you will see the opinion of those officers as to the quantity of wastage which may result from various causes.

4. The orders of Government are that six months' reserve stock of provisions are to be kept on hand. To enable me to keep up this quantity, I have to retain from one to two months' stock in excess for immediate use. The oldest grain in store being first issued, the result is that it lies in my godowns for from six to eight months before it is issued. A reference to the letter from the Assistant Commissary General above alluded to, will show that in his opinion at six months, the wastage may amount to eight per cent. Add to this the loss alluded to by him upon re-weighment, from dust and friction one per cent., and the result is nine per cent. after only six months. The wastage on rice alluded to in the 4th enquiry of your letter under reply is but 5·71.

Your 1st Enquiry.—The quantity of all articles which it is possible to test is tested on receipt, for instance, cases containing hardware and sundry articles of all kinds, also rum and malt liquor, but that of grain I find it is next to impossible to weigh out. When a ship is in port, with the assistance of 100 colies, I can only just manage to get the stores under cover, and even then, have frequently to leave them out on the beach all night protected by tarpaulins. To weight out 15 to 25,000 bags of grain on the arrival of each ship would require a separate receiving and weighing shed, and an extra gang of 100 coolies. I would very much prefer having this done, if it were possible, as it would be far more satisfactory, than receiving over the bags on the supposition that they contained what is marked upon them, though I believe that they are filled, weighed, and marked at Calcutta under the supervision of Commissariat subordinates.

Your Enquiry No. 2.—The quantity as *per Invoice* is entered in my books. Any articles found deficient from cases, &c. &c., by loss or theft, are written off in the report of a Court of Enquiry, or in the case of wastage of such articles as can be tested. Casualties of live stock, consumption of fodder, &c., on board, on an inspection report, and in that of rum and malt liquor on a register of road wastage.

Your Enquiry No. 3.—Such articles as have not been tested, as grain, the bags of which are said to contain an uniform weight, or sugar, ghoor, tobacco, tamarind, the quantity of which is marked on the hogsheads containing them, are brought on my books as *per Invoice*, and I have no means of ascertaining whether such quantity is the true weight received by me, hence any wastage on board ship is included in my monthly wastage register.

Your Enquiry No. 4.—You will find that generally the wastage is about five per cent.; that on rice alluded to, as I have already stated, was in December 1866, 5·71. As already shewn, I cannot tell in the case of certain articles whether the amount of wastage was ever in the bags, but I have no reason to believe that it was not, though, as already shown, it includes the wastage which occurs on board-ship.

Your Enquiries Nos. 5 *and* 6.—One of my godowns has never been of much use, in consequence of its leaky condition. It has frequently been reported upon, and is now being repaired and having new verandahs put to it by the Executive Engineer. During the late rains, the water got into the godown and wetted about 50 bags of wheat. These were at once opened, dried, and issued, so that the loss has been but small, being about 400 to 500 lbs., which will be entered in our wastage report for the month.

5. With this one exception, my godowns are not leaky, and I am in hopes that the repairs now being effected will make this one also water-tight.

My godown accommodation is, however, far from sufficient, and I am daily feeling my want in this respect more and more, as the strength of the Settlement increases, and with it the quantity of stores required to be kept on hand.

6. I have just obtained a barrack on
he has vacated to enable me to store rice
have any stores scattered about at severa
he will have the hulk "Erin-go-bragh"
help me, but for the same reason is no
one spot, nor is it advantageous keep
it than on shore. I believe ten in
which three are to be put up for me
down to make room for them. Th
so that it is obvious I shall not be mu
recommend that a portion or the whole of the Anan
wherein to erect sheds, and that at least seven out of the ten
am confident that this would in the end result in a saving to Government, as it wou
me to keep my stores in a more cleanly and in a less crowded state, and consequently more free from insects and vermin. I trust, you will therefore lay this matter before the Chief Commissioner for his favorable, and if possible, immediate consideration.

Your Enquiry No. 7.—7,000 lbs. potatoes were landed from the Ship "King Arthur" in a rotten condition; this was a chartered and not a Government vessel. The potatoes were packed in large square baskets and piled one on the other between decks where sheep were; the effluvia and want of ventilation destroyed them. This loss was written off in the Report of a Committee of Inquiry, and was not entered in my monthly wastage reports.

7. I communicated with the Commissariat Officer, Calcutta, on this subject, recommending that potatoes should be packed in small baskets and slung on deck, which has since been done, and the wastage on board has consequently been far less.

8. In conclusion, I would remark that the subject of wastage has my constant attention. I am quite alive to the importance of keeping it down to the lowest mark, and am ever doing my utmost to prevent loss by damage, wastage or other causes; and I trust that the explanation I have now afforded, will satisfy the Chief Commissioner that the wastage entered in my accounts is not beyond what may be reasonably expected. I will not however leave this subject without suggesting that our communication with Calcutta should be put in so certain and efficient a condition as to obviate the necessity of keeping up so large a reserve stock. If we kept up three months' reserve, and one or two months running stock for immediate use, our wastage would be considerably decreased; but in doing this, care would have to be taken that our communication be such that no danger be incurred of our supply running out.

No. 1702, dated 18th July, 1866.

From—Captain H. Hawkes, *Deputy Assistant Commissary General, Madras,*
To—*Commissariat Officer, Port Blair.*

Your letter No. 112, dated 26th June 1866, has been received.

2. The maximum wastage allowed on various articles is as follows:—

Road wastage on arrack and malt liquor	...	2½ per cent. per 100 miles travelled.
Store wastage	...	Arrack 8 per cent. per annum.
Ditto,	...	Malt liquor 10 per cent.
Tea	...	6½ per cent.

Rice and other grains cannot be fixed, as it much depends on the nature of the climate and of the store rooms.

Wastage on all provisions shipped ... 4 per cent.

No. 4933, dated 6th September, 1866.

From—Major W. Macbean, *Assistant Commissary General, Calcutta,*
To—*Superintendent, Port Blair.*

You have enquired what losses are usually passed upon rum and grain retained for any length of time in store.

My rum is in vats, and the dryage is not so great as it would be were it stored in casks.

My loss is from 1½ to 2 per cent. per annum. If the rum was in hogsheads, I should consider from 5 to 6 per cent. to be the maximum loss which should be sustained from dryage in one year; proportionate quantities being allowed for shorter periods.

On the time of march, when it is exposed, as much as from 2 to 3 per cent. per month would be allowed.

No loss is ever sanctioned upon retail issues, nor as far as I know is any allowed in canteens of corps.

Grain, if stored in damp, and weighed upon issue in dry weather, will be found to have sustained some loss; a trifle, certainly not more than 1 per cent.

There is always some loss upon re-weighment from dust and friction, but it should not exceed 1 per cent. The chief loss upon grain are from the attacks of insects, but this also is a trifle for the first and second month of storing.

If the grain is well cared for, I should think the losses from this cause would not exceed in the

First two months	... ...	1 per cent.
Three months in store	...	3 "
Six months in store	... ...	8 "

Insects are generated more quickly in damp hot weather than at any other season. Grain for some time in store should be frequently exposed to the sun.